MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

29 MARCH 1983

Lebanon

Tripartite Negotiations -- President Amin al-Jumayyil and Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan met with U.S. presidential envoy Philip Habib and other U.S. officials to learn details of the Israel stand toward the negotiations, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. Al-Wazzan also discussed the course of the Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. negotiations with Soviet Ambassador Aleksandr Soldatov, according to Beirut radio.

Al-Biqa Situation -- Israeli artillery opened fire at Syrian positions twice in the last 2 days and Israeli aircraft staged intensive overflights in southern Lebanon, Beirut radio reported on 29 March. The Syrians responded by reinforcing their positions, the radio said. According to diplomatic sources cited by the Voice of Lebanon, Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni has ordered the Iranian gunmen in Al-Biqa' to return to Iran.

Syria

'Attar Interview -- The USSR "will take a direct part in fighting" if Israel attacks Syrian forces in Lebanon, AFP reported citing a TISHRIN interview with Culture Minister Najah 'Attar. She described recent remarks by Soviet Ambassador to Lebanon Aleksandr Soldatov, who said the Soviet Union will stand beside Syria in the event of Israeli aggression, as "going beyond traditional diplomatic statements" and defining "a firm political and military attitude" that constitutes a new interpretation of the Soviet-Syrian friendship treaty. Monitored Syrian broadcasts have not reported 'Attar's interview.

Turkish Foreign Minister Visit -- Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam met with Turkish Foreign Minister Ilter Turkmen in Damascus to discuss bilateral relations and the Middle East situation, according to SANA.

Al-Qadhdhafi Speech

Libya pledges full support for Nicaragua and its forces are "at the disposal of the Sandinista front" in the face of the "blind American military threat," Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi declared during a speech at the Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir Airbase broadcast live by Tripoli radio. He also announced that Libya's "people's congresses" have decided to conclude a mutual defense pact with North Korea and that Libya and Algeria have signed an agreement in which Algeria "declared its intention to proceed without hesitation along the path of unity with Libya." The agreement was reached during Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud's visit to Algeria, Al-Qadhdhafi noted.

In his speech Al-Qadhdhafi attacked the Egyptian and Sudanese regimes and expressed regret that Libya had helped abort Hashim al-Ata's procommunist coup against Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri in 1971. Al-Qadhdhafi said any Arab regime that reestablishes contact with Egypt should be "destroyed" and reaffirmed that Libya will never recognize Israel, even if the PLO does. He also said the Arabs should mobilize forces to defend Syria against Israel and stressed that Libya is ready to send troops to aid the Syrians.

Israel

Health Ministry and IDF Medical Corps personnel have concluded that there is no evidence of intentional or unintentional poisoning in the Janin area and rejected reports that nerve gas is involved, IDF Radio reported.

PLO Affairs

'Arafat Activities -- PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Baghdad from Riyadh and met with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, INA reported.

Reaction to Janin Incident -- A PLO spokesman accused the Israeli Government and army of responsibility for the recent "gassing" of Palestinian children on the West Bank, according to AFP. The spokesman declared that the PLO reserves the right "to riposte" as it thinks best, AFP added.

POW Exchange

Senior PLO officials denied reports that an agreement has been reached with Israel to release 8 Israeli POW's in return for the release of 1,000 Palestinians, Jerusalem radio reported. The PLO officials also denied that the Israeli prisoners have been transferred to Tunis. Israeli Foreign Ministry and Defense Ministry officials stated that they know nothing about an agreement concerning exchanges of prisoners, the radio added.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Jordan's King Husayn received Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, who conveyed a message to the king from Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Amman television reported.

In another development Morocco and Algeria will resume diplomatic relations during the "coming few weeks," KUNA announced citing an official Moroccan source.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iraqi antiaircraft defense units shot down an Iranian plane in the Ash-Shib area on 29 March, INA claimed citing an Iraqi military source.

Iraq

A consortium of international banks, including the Bank of China, granted a $500 million loan to Iraq assumed by the financial community to be linked with the Iraq-Iran war, AFP reported.

Iran

Revolution guards and other security forces have dealt further blows to "counterrevolutionaries" in Kurdish areas of western Iran, according to a Guard Corps communique broadcast by Tehran radio. Two prominent Kurdish commanders were killed in a recent purge of rebel hideouts, the communique said.

FBIS DAILY REPORT CONTENTS

Middle East and Africa

Vol V No 061 *29 March 1983*

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

PLO Spokesman Denies Israeli POW's in Tunisia A 1
Leaders React to Poisoning of Janin Schoolchildren A 1
PFLP's Abu Sharif [Radio Monte Carlo] A 1
PLO Spokesman A 2
Chedli Klibi A 2
Habib Chatti [SPA] A 2
PLO Radio Appeals for Arab Action, Assails U.S. A 3
[Baghdad Voice of PLO]
Salah Khalaf on Jordan, Kuwait, Other Topics [KUNA] A 3
FRG Paper: PLO Plans Communications Center in Cyprus A 4
[Bonn DIE WELT 26-27 Mar]

ARABIAN PENINSULA

BAHRAIN

Oil Slick Sighted 40 km North of Bahrain C 1
[GULF DAILY NEWS 29 Mar]

OMAN

Sultan Qabus Leaves for Jordan 29 March C 1

QATAR

Environment Committee Meets, Discusses Oil Slick C 2

SAUDI ARABIA

Crown Prince Chairs Cabinet Meeting on Arab Issues C 2

UAE

Papers on Cuts in Abu Dhabi Development Expenses C 3

PDRY

Chairman Awards Medal to Soviet Official C 3
Chairman Receives PLO Envoy, Reiterates Support C 4
[Aden VOP]

YAR

PDRY Official Arrives With Message 28 Mar C 4
Salih Receives Message C 4

EGYPT

Reportage on Visit by European Parliamentarians	D 1
Arrive 25 March	D 1
Meeting With Mubarak	D 1
Abu Talib Meeting	D 1
Muhyi ad-Din Reception	D 2
Talks With 'Ali	D 2
'Ali on USSR Ties	D 2
'Ali Remarks on Israel	D 3
Depart 29 March	D 3
'Ali, Indian Envoy Discuss Nonaligned Issues	D 3
Ghali Comments on EEC Statement on Lebanon	D 4
Mubarak Makes Tour of Two Governorates	D 4

IRAQ

Communique No 1,042 on War Operations Issued	E 1
INA: Ground Defenses Shoot Down Iranian Plane	E 1
Na'im Haddad Comments on Visit to USSR	E 1
Tariq 'Aziz Confers With Yasir 'Arafat 28 Mar	E 2
'Arafat Leaves Baghdad [Radio Monte Carlo]	E 2
$500 Million Loan Granted; PRC Contributor	E 2
RCC Decree Excuses Debts, Taxes of POW's in Iran [ATH-THAWRAH 24 Mar]	E 3

JORDAN

AL-HADAF Says King Husayn To Visit U.S. 18 Apr [QNA]	F 1
Editorial Views U.S. Arms Deals With Israel [SAWT ASH-SHA'B 25 Mar]	F 1
Jordianian-SFRY Economic Committee Reconvenes	F 2
Prince Hasan Addresses EEC Delegation on Middle East	F 2

LEBANON

Al-Wazzan Discussion With USSR's Soldatov	G 1
USSR Demands Israeli Withdrawal [Voice of Arab Lebanon]	G 1
Soldatov on Israeli Threats	G 1
Al-Wazzan Firm on Security Arrangements	G 1
Habib Returns to Beirut; Talks 'Stagnated'	G 2
Al-Jumayyil, Al-Wazzan Meet With U.S. Envoys	G 2
Al-Jumayyil Chairs Meeting; Salim Meets Habib	G 2
Al-Wazzan, Sa'ib Salam Meet With Habib 29 Mar	G 3
Beirut Radio on Israeli Stand on U.S. Proposals	G 3
Soviet, Iranian, Libyan Experts Inspect Al-Biqa'	G 4
Israeli Patrol Ambushed in Mountain 28 Mar	G 4
Syrians, Israelis Reported Reinforcing Positions	G 4
VOL Claims Khomeyni Orders Iranians To Leave	G 4
Transfer of Israeli POW's to Tunisia Reported	G 5
Al-As'ad, Al-Wazzan on Parliamentary Meeting	G 5

SYRIA

USSR Delegation Leaves Damascus 28 March	H 1
AFP: 'Attar Says USSR Will Fight if Israel Attacks	H 1
TISHRIN Views U.S. Arms Deal to Israel [26 Mar]	H 2
Al-Asad Receives PNC Speaker, Pledges Support	H 3
Palestine Broadcast on Next Husayn-'Arafat Meeting	H 3

Turkish Foreign Minister Arrives 27 March H 4
Khadiam, Turkmen Hold Talks H 4
More Talks Held H 4

ISRAEL

Habib Impartiality on Lebanon Questioned I 1
[MA'ARIV 28 Mar]
Rabin Wants Habib To Attend Committee Session I 1
[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 27 Mar]
Begin Rejects Lebanon Pullback, Urges Firmness I 1
[JERUSALEM POST 28 Mar]
PLO Denies, Then Confirms POW Transfer I 3
PLO Denies Exchange I 3
POW's to Tunis I 4
Kreisky Representative Negotiating POW Release I 4
[MA'ARIV 28 Mar]
IDF, Haddad Increase Patrols in E. Lebanon I 5
Pentagon 'Withholding' Another Missile Deal I 5
[MA'ARIV 24 Mar]
F-16's, Lavi Production Know-how Asked of U.S. I 5
[HA'ARETZ 28 Mar]
Eytan Comments on Lebanon Developments, Soviets I 6
Jerusalem Arabic on Obstacles to Peace Talks I 7
Soviet-Backed Syrian Activity in Al-Biqa' I 8
[HA'ARETZ 28 Mar]
Labor Party's Peres Holds Talks in Romania [cross-reference] I 8
Rabin Comments on Herzog Election to Presidency I 8
[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 25 Mar]
Space Agency Convenes First Official Meeting I 10
[HA'ARETZ 24 Mar]
Satellite Planned I 10
Amendment to Who-Is-Jew Law Defeated in Knesset I 10

INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

African Parliaments Union Opens Conference P 1
[Libreville Africa No 1]
Meeting Ends; President Elected P 1
[Libreville Africa No 1]
OAU Secretary General on Arab-African Cooperation P 1
[Ouagadougou]

NORTH AFRICA

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi Speech at Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir Airbase Q 1
Report on Air Show Q 13

MOROCCO

Relations With Algeria To Be Resumed in April [KUNA] Q 14

CENTRAL AFRICA

CONGO

Soviet Delegation Ends Visit on 23 March S 1

CHAD

Goukouni Blames Dissent for GUNT's Fall S 1
Bardai Commentary on Goukouni Interview S 2

GABON

Talks With Morocco; Communique Issued S 3

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Anti-Apartheid Conference Condemns U.S. U 1

ANGOLA

Jorge: 'Doors Open' for Talks With RSA U 1
Speech at Lisbon Conference U 2
'Special' UNITA Communique on 11-12 Mar Actions U 3
[Voice of Resistance of Black Cockerel]

LESOTHO

Police Report Two Insurgents Shot Dead U 4
Sabotage Suspects Released U 5
Ties With USSR Linked to Protest Over Attacks U 5
[THE STAR 28 Mar]

MAURITIUS

Prime Minister Announces New Government U 5

SOUTH AFRICA

Official Complaint Lodged With Lesotho U 6
Le Grange Denies Involvement U 7
Foreign Minister on Arrival of Mabandla U 7
More on Mabandla [SUNDAY TIMES 27 Mar] U 7
Buthelezi Say ANC Forfeits Black Support U 8
Envoy: ABC Film Team Visited on 'False Pretext' U 8

SWAZILAND

Bhekimpi Sworn in as New Prime Minister U 9
Addresses Parliamentarians U 9
Foreign Minister on Mabandla's Arrival in RSA U 10
[THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND 28 Mar]

ZAMBIA

President Kaunda Visits Cyprus, United Kingdom U 11
[cross-reference]

ZIMBABWE

Mugabe Issues 'Ultimatum' to ZAPU on Dissidents U 11
Radio Truth Suggests Former Leader Assassinated U 11
Police Confiscate UK Journalist's Passports U 12

PLO SPOKESMAN DENIES ISRAELI POW'S IN TUNISIA

NC281618 Paris AFP in English 1604 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Beirut, March 28 (AFP) -- Eight Israeli soldiers taken prisoner by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in Lebanon last summer have apparently been transferred to another Arab country, but there were conflicting reports today on their whereabouts. The Phalangist Voice of Lebanon radio here said they were in Tunisia, but gave no source for the report.

Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahman, a PLO spokesman in Tunis, said the eight Israelis were "neither in Lebanon, nor in Tunisia, but in another Arab country." He said it was "not necessary" to specify the country.

A Palestinian source said yesterday in Damascus that the eight had been recently transferred from central Lebanon's Al-Biqa' plain to another Arab country for security reasons.

LEADERS REACT TO POISONING OF JANIN SCHOOLCHILDREN

PFLP's Abu Sharif

JN201802 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1720 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Telephone dispatch by Radio Monte Carlo correspondent Louis Faris in Damascus on 28 March -- recorded]

[Excerpt] [PFLP official spokesman] Bassam Abu Sharif, reacting to the remarks made by the military governor of Janin and 'Arraba that Palestinian extremists are responsible for the mass poisoning of the Janin girl students, has called the remarks and ridiculous. Israel's crime, he said is a link in the chain of its massacres against the Palestinian people and is an indication of the plan unveiled by Moshe Arens, who threatened to crush every popular uprising against the occupation.

Abu Sharif noted that the PLO can retaliate with more force, but it will never commit mass murder. The PLO can deal strong and violent blows to the Israeli forces.

Speaking about a possible Israeli offensive, Abu Sharif said that Israel is massing troops in southern Lebanon and in the eastern region of Al-Biqa'. This is an implicit indication that Lebanon's invasion was the first phase and that Israel does not intend to withdraw from Lebanon and seeks to keep the border open to exploit the Lebanese markets and plunder its waters.

Abu Sharif reiterated the importance of Palestinian-Syrian relations. He refuted reports that George Habash is sick, stressing that Dr Habash is as healthy as can be.

It is worth noting that yesterday Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad received PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum. He stressed Syria's firm, principled stand on the Palestine question and its support for the Palestinian revolution as well as its opposition to any attempt to liquidate the Palestine question.

In another development Palestinian sources denied reports that the eight Israeli POW's have been transferred to Tunis. It is worth mentioning that PLO Executive Committee member 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar today received the representative of Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky who, as has been reported, is mediating in this regard.

PLO Spokesman

NC281745 Paris AFP in English 1726 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Tunis, March 28 (AFP) -- A Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) spokesman today accused the Israeli Government and army of responsibility for the recent cases of gassing of Palestinian schoolchildren on the occupied West Bank. The spokesman, Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahman, said the Israeli Government and "the Israeli terrorist clans" had committed "an ignoble crime" against the young Palestinians by poisoning water supplies and laying down "toxic products" in schools.

The PLO, he said, reserved the right to riposts as it thought best, and he also called on the UN Security Council, other international bodies, and world opinion to assume full responsibility to stop the "crime."

He also accused the United States of responsibility for the continuance of the "genocide and repression" that had been conducted for past two weeks by Israel against the Palestinians in the occupied territories, and he called on the Palestinians to hit back by continuing their "heroic" revolt and "courageous" challenge to the policy of "repression and (Jewish) settlement."

Chedli Klibi

NC282102 Paris AFP in English 1932 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Tunis, March 28 (AFP) -- Arab League Secretary-General Chedli Klibi today accused Israel of using chemical weapons on the West Bank "to repress student demonstrations" and he called for an international inquiry "if Israel denies these facts." Mr Klibi, commenting on the cases of gassing of Palestinian schoolchildren on the West Bank, added that it appeared Israel had prevented some of the afflicted schoolchildren from "being treated in certain hospitals." "World public opinion must pronounce on this crime," he added.

Mr Klibi, who was speaking at the opening of a meeting of the League Ministerial Council, also accused Israel of planning to sabotage the mission of the planned Arab space satellite by launching two satellites in 1986 into the satellite's orbit.

Habib Chatti

LD291034 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0915 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] Jidda, 29 Mar (SPA) -- Habib Chatti, general secretary of the Islamic Conference Organization, has appealed to the Islamic states, to international organizations and to world public opinion to adopt a firm stand on the case of the mass poisoning of Palestinian girl students in order to deter Israeli (?crimes). In a statement to SPA, he declared that Israel is once again providing proof that it does not know any limits in committing crimes against the Palestinian people because today -- after the Lebanon war, the wrecking of Beirut, the massacres in Sabra and Shatila, and the criminal attack against the sanctity of Al-Aqsa Mosque -- it has committed a crime that no human being in modern time could commit by attacking innocent children in a very brutal and unprecedented manner.

Habib Chatti stressed that Israel's commission of such crimes is not coincidental or a passing event; it falls within the framework of a plan aimed at terrorizing the Palestinian people and forcing them to leave their homeland, at wiping out the largest possible number of these people in order to weaken their fighting ability. Habib Chatti demanded that the International Red Cross (?commission) and the United Nations form a factfinding international commission to investigate this painful incident.

PLO RADIO APPEALS FOR ARAB ACTION, ASSAILS U.S.

JN271854 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1645 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Appeal to Arab nation]

[Text] O masses of the Arab nation: The Palestinian people in the occupied territory are facing a war of annihilation at the hands of the Zionist occupiers. They are facing a war of mass poisoning and mass starvation. After students have been killed and kidnapped, an attempt was made a few days ago to poison the students of 'Arrabah school in the Janin district. The same thing was tried again in Janin and Ya'bad. The result was that hundreds of Palestinian students were rushed to hospitals in very serious condition.

The war of mass starvation can be seen now in many Palestinian villages and camps which have been besieged for weeks. Children, old men, and women are dying every day as a result of the Zionist siege.

It is a systematic war of annihilation being carried out with new methods and led by terrorist Begin. It is a war of mass poisoning unprecedented in the world. It is a new Nazi war against the Palestinian people.

O masses of our Arab nation everywhere, after Palestine, the Nazi Zionists made Lebanon their aim. They invaded and occupied it, terrorized the people, opened prisons for them, and detained men of religion and women when they did not find men left for detention. The rallies, solidarity meetings with the Palestinians, the denunciation of Zionist terror, and all statements will not match the Zionist crimes.

Everyone should move and hold the United States responsible for this situation, because Israel is only one more of the United States. The Zionist settlements are established with U.S. funds. The tools of murder and poison to kill Palestinians are bought with U.S. funds. The new Zionist settlers are transferred to Palestine with U.S. funds so that they can settle in Palestinian villages and cities, even in our holy shrines.

Let all Arab organizations, unions, and establishments from the Atlantic to the Arab Gulf act in order to stop the war of annihilation being implemented by the U.S. tool in the region, Israel. The United States is the primary and real enemy of this nation. The United States raises a hue and cry whenever a state obstructs the emigration of a Zionist killer to occupied Palestine. It does not care if the Palestinians die by poison and starvation.

Let everybody in our nation act to stop the annihilation of our Palestinian people in the occupied territory because the Palestinians are Arabs, Arabs!

SALAH KHALAF ON JORDAN, KUWAIT, OTHER TOPICS

LD282359 Kuwait KUNA in English 1718 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Kuwait, March 28 (KUNA) -- A ranking Palestinian leader reiterated here Monday the PLO's keenness on relations with Jordan and hoped that the coming meeting between Chairman 'Arafat and King Husayn of Jordan will conclude in the interest of the Arabs and that of the Palestinian cause. "We hope," Salah Khalaf, PLO Executive Member and second in command of Fatah mainstream commando movement added, "that there will be reciprocal understanding of our attitude."

Following a meeting here today with the deputy premier, foreign and information minister, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmed, which was also attended by the movement's Executive [Committee] member, Khalid al-Hassan, Deputy President of the Palestinian National Council Salim az-Za'nun, and PLO representative here 'Awni Battash, Abu Iyad stated that the meeting has reviewed the latest developments pertaining to Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Jordan and the attempts to project the Palestinians as being responsible for the failure of efforts to establish peace in the region because of their rejection of U.S. President Reagan's peace initiative. The official said that the meeting with Shaykh Sabah was a continuation of an earlier contact today with H.H. the amir and the crown prince and prime minister.

He announced that Kuwait has shown complete understanding of the Palestinian stand and that such understanding has always been exhibited "by the amir, government and people of Kuwait" in their unequivocal support and backing to the Palestinian cause and rights.

On possible Jordanian participation in the Camp David process, Abu Iyad replied that "there is Palestinian-Jordanian consultation and also with other Arab parties, particularly countries represented in the seven-man delegation." However, he cautioned against premature speculations in this respect.

Answering questions on prospects of Israel launching a new war in the region, Salah Khalaf believed that the present spring will be a "hot season" particularly in view of what might take place against the Syrian and Palestinian forces stationed in the Al-Biqa' Valley and the possible escalation under the Israeli concept of unleashing a war of occupation to be followed by negotiations from a strong position as has happened in Lebanon.

About the motives behind Israel's new crime on poisoning girl students in the occupied territories, Khalid al-Hassan believed that the poisoning was caused by toxic or nerve gas bombs whose effect is carried by the wind. He accused such extremist gangs as the one led by Meir Kahane of committing the crime within the context of Menahem Begin's policy and noted that Israeli settlers were armed and always acted in full concert with the government.

The official reminded of Israel's other successive crimes of planting explosive charges at the entrance of municipal council buildings, the repeated attempts to occupy the Al-Aqsa Mosque in holy Jerusalem, sending of leaflets threatening the local population, levying of taxes back dating to 1967 and all forms of pressurizing the citizens into fleeing their land. Al-Hassan concluded that Israel's reluctance to undertake projects in the occupied West Bank is meant to accelerate dislodging of its populace and to pave the way for an actual annexation of that territory.

FRG PAPER: PLO PLANS COMMUNICATIONS CENTER IN CYPRUS

DW281047 Bonn DIE WELT in German 26-27 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] Bonn -- After having had to evacuate Beirut, the PLO is setting up a new information and communications center in the Greek part of Cyprus. According to official reports available in Bonn, the editorial staffs of the PLO newspapers and the news agency "WAFA" have established themselves there. At the same time, the PLO has filed an application for a broadcasting license for its radio service "Voice of Palestine." However, several Arab states have lodged a protest. They are afraid that the transmitter intends to agitate opposition forces in their countries.

BAHRAIN

OIL SLICK SIGHTED 40 KM NORTH OF BAHRAIN

GF290533 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 29 Mar 83 pp 1, 2

[Text] The next four days are crucial to Bahrain as a massive oil slick threatens the island. Experts last night confirmed that a slick sighted 40 km north of Bahrain is so big it could engulf the entire island. It depends on the wind whether the 250 square km slick hits Bahrain or edges past towards Qatar. In the worst possible of conditions, the slick could reach Bahrain in just four days.

Members of Bahrain's emergency task force last night were playing a waiting game hanging on what acting chairman Walter Vreeland called "the winds of nature." After days of lengthy meetings, Mr Vreeland reckons the team is ready for the oil should it hit the shores, having built on experience gained in Bahrain's 1980 slick disaster. But to make sure, they have flown in oil spill expert Darko Domovic to advise what the next moves should be.

Samples taken from the slick show vast globules with the consistency of tar that are virtually impossible to break up with dispersants while it is in the water. And the oil is so old that it is also almost impossible to set fire to it, so all that can be hoped for if it should head for the island is to contain it in "sacrificial" areas such as those scheduled to be reclaimed from the sea. Other areas, such as the fishing waters off the east coast, and the desalination plant off the north of Sitra Island, are deemed critical and will be protected with all measures available. As well as this slick to the north west of Bahrain, five smaller ones to the north east, the nearest 30 km away and the furthest 100 km have also been sighted.

Even if the main slick misses Bahrain which with wind forecast for the next few days it might, these smaller spills are more likely to hit.

The slicks are part of the largest ever oil spill in the Gulf, estimated now by Mr Vreeland to be as much as 250,000 barrels, with upwards of 1,500 barrels a day continuing to gush into the sea from two uncapped wells in the Iranian Nowruz field at the neck of the Gulf, damaged in the war with Iraq.

Satellite pictures tracking the spill show it covering hundreds of kilometres of water from the coast of Iran above Khark Island across the top half of the Gulf.

Breakaway slicks, such as that threatening Bahrain, are shown to be just a few miles off the coast of Saudi Arabia and almost within the waters of the UAE.

OMAN

SULTAN QABUS LEAVES FOR JORDAN 29 MARCH

GF290908 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0730 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] Muscat, 29 Mar (WAKH) -- Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, the sultan of Oman, left Muscat this morning for Amman on 3-day state visit to Jordan. The sultan is accompanied by Fahd ibn Mahmud Al Sa'id, deputy prime minister for legal affairs; Faysal ibn 'Ali, minister of national and cultural heritage; Hamad ibn Hamud, minister of the sultan's office affairs; and Yusuf al-'Alawi, minister of foreign affairs.

During this visit, Sultan Qabus will hold talks with King Husayn, monarch of Jordan. The talks will focus on bilateral relations and the recent developments of the Arab cause in light of the latest contacts in the Arab and international arenas, in addition to contacts aimed at involving Jordan in the talks for peace and reaching a just and comprehensive solution that guarantees the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people. Furthermore, the talks will deal with the developments of the situation in the Gulf region and means of putting an end to the Iraq-Iran war.

QATAR

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETS, DISCUSSES OIL SLICK

GF281950 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Doha, 28 Mar (WAKH) -- The executive operations committee of the Qatari permanent committee for environment protection met this evening to discuss the situation arising from the oil slick in the Gulf from the Iranian oilfields which is currently posing a pollution threat to the region's coasts.

Dr Hasan 'Abdallah Kashkash, acting secretary general of the permanent committee, said the meeting formed two ground and sea operation teams, each of which will work in its field and will submit recommendations to the permanent committee which will be in a state of continuous session. He said an international expert in sea pollution will arrive in Doha from Britain tomorrow to work with the committee in combatting the current oil slick in the Gulf. He added that the meeting charged Ahmad Muhammad as-Subay'i, director of the Mechanical Equipment Department at the Qatari Labor and Social Affairs Ministry, to put forward a working plan to combat ground pollution and submit it to the executive committee.

Dr Hasan Kashkash said the permament committee for environment protection received information from Bahrain tonight indicating that the oil slick has been spotted 25 miles north of Bahrain and that specimens from it have been taken for laboratory tests to determine oil type, size, and characteristics.

SAUDI ARABIA

CROWN PRINCE CHAIRS CABINET MEETING ON ARAB ISSUES

LD282229 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Riyadh, 28 Mar (SPA) -- The Council of Ministers this evening held a meeting under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard.

His Excellency the Minister of Information Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani said after the meeting that the council began its session with a review of various aspects of the current situation in the Arab area, the latest developments over the Palestinian issue, and Arab moves to bring about a comprehensive and just settlement in accordance with the Arab peace plan which was approved by the Fes summit, and also the situation in Lebanon. Also discussed were tripartite talks which seek the withdrawal of the Zionist enemy from Lebanese territory, Israel's intransigence in these negotiations, and the Israeli enemy's activities which have recently escalated to an extent that an international move must be made to stop and limit their effects.

His excellency the minister of information said that his royal highness the crown prince informed the Council of Ministers of the contents of the messages which His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received from His Excellency Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and the messages which his majesty sent to a number of Gulf and Arab leaders. He also acquainted the council with the results of the visit by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to the Kingdom.

His excellency said that the council listened to a report by His Royal Highness Prince Mut'ib ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the minister of public works and housing, on the results of the first conference of the ministers of housing in the Arabian Gulf Cooperation Council states.

UAE

PAPERS ON CUTS IN ABU DHABI DEVELOPMENT EXPENSES

GF271622 Doha QNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Text] Dubayy, 27 Mar (QNA) -- Press reports said here today that the Executive Council of the UAE amirate of Abu Dhabi has decided to cancel projects worth 3.9 billion dirhams from the current budget's development programs and to reduce the total cost of other projects in the budget in accordance with the austerity measures after the lowering of oil prices.

Jaw'an Salim, director of the Abu Dhabi Financial Department, has told the newspaper AL-BAYAN that some projects in the current budget have been cancelled or postponed and new plans have been made to limit expenditures. He said he does not expect a real deficit in the budget which will be announced next week. He noted that the Abu Dhabi Financial Department has submitted a report to the Executive Council on the budget which took into consideration the world's oil situation in view of the recent OPEC decisions and the possibility of reducing oil prices and production in the future.

As part of the policy of reducing expenditures, UAE Health Minister Hamad 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Madfa' has stated that it has been decided not to send patients for treatment abroad unless it is certain that they cannot be treated in the country.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-ITTIHAD, he said a decision has been made to dispatch a medical committee to Cairo to discuss the health condition of UAE citizens who are being treated in Egypt at the expense of the UAE Government, and to decide on their need of treatment and to return those who can be treated in the government's health institutions.

PDRY

CHAIRMAN AWARDS MEDAL TO SOVIET OFFICIAL

GF281946 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, today awarded Fleet Admiral Sergey Georgiyevich Gorshkov, member of the CPSU Central Committee, deputy defense minister, and commander in chief of the Soviet Navy, the nations friendship medal at the headquarters of Supreme People's Council Presidium.

CHAIRMAN RECEIVES PLO ENVOY, REITERATES SUPPORT

GF281930 Aden Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1818 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the PDRY Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, received in his office at the Secretariat of the Supreme People's Council Presidium this morning Brother 'Abbas Zaki, Fatah Revolutionary Council member and PLO representative in Aden.

During the audience, latest developments in the political situation in the Arab region and the Palestinian issue were reviewed. A number of issues of interest to the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions, and furthering bilateral relations and coordination between them, were also discussed.

The brother secretary general expressed the PDRY's satisfaction over the growing heroic struggle the Palestinian people are waging against the Zionist occupation and reiterated the PDRY's support for the Palestinian people's just struggle for self-determination and to establish an independent state under the PLO, their legitimate and sole representative. He also expressed confidence in reinforcing the Arab forces' struggle against the imperialist-Zionist alliance.

YAR

PDRY OFFICIAL ARRIVES WITH MESSAGE 28 MAR

GF281502 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Wali, minister of state for cabinet affairs in the southern part of the homeland, arrived today on a short visit to San'a'.

In a statement to SABA' NEWS AGENCY, he said during the visit he will convey a verbal message to Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the armed forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, from his brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers in the southern part of the homeland, on continued coordination and consultations between the two parts of the homeland, and on coordinating and promoting the activities of the committees of unity in the service of the goals of the (?two Yemeni revolutions).

Salih Receives Message

GF280454 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the armed forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received in his office at the Presidential Palace at 1800 today, Brother 'Abdallah Ahmad Ghanim [name as heard], minister of state for cabinet affairs in the southern part of the homeland, who conveyed a verbal message from Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers in the southern part of the homeland.

SABA' NEWS AGENCY has learned that the message deals with the activities of the unity committees and the setting of dates for the Yemeni committee meeting.

The meeting was attended by Brother Ahmad ash-Shijni, minister of state for people's constituent assembly affairs and [name indistinct].

REPORTAGE ON VISIT BY EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARIANS

Arrive 25 March

NC251906 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] A European Parliamentary delegation arrived in Cairo today on a 4-day visit to Egypt. During its stay, the delegation will meet with Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din, People's Assembly Speaker Dr Sufi Abu Talib, Consultative Council Speaker Dr Subhi 'Abd al-Hakim, and several state officials as well as with the ambassadors of the EEC in Cairo. The delegation is also due to hold talks dealing with the latest developments in the Middle East situation and with promoting the parliamentary relations between Egypt and the European Parliament.

Meeting With Mubarak

NC261502 Cairo MENA in English 1410 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, March 26 (MENA) -- President Husni Mubarak received here this afternoon the delegation of the European Parliament currently visiting Egypt, with Speaker of the People's Assembly Dr Sufi Abu Talib attending.

The meeting was also attended by Dr Muhammad 'Abd al-Ilah, chairman of the People's Assembly Foreign Relations Committee, and Kurt Mueller, West German ambassador here.

Dr 'Abd al-Ilah said President Mubarak discussed with the European Parliament delegation, representing seven European states, relations between Egypt and the EEC and means of boosting these relations in the political, trade, and cultural domains. The Palestinian cause and means of reaching a just and durable peace were also discussed.

Dr 'Abd al-Ilah noted that the president paid tribute to the resolutions adopted by the European Parliament, mainly those issued in January which defined the stand of the European Parliament in support of right and justice and the Arab and Palestinian causes.

Dr 'Abd al-Ilah said that the European delegation showed great interest as towards Egyptian-Sudanese integration and aspects of finding a sort of cooperation between the EEC and Egypt and the Sudan within this integration.

The delegation also hailed Egypt's pioneer role in Africa and its weight in the Middle East region as well as within the framework of the Nonaligned Movement.

Abu Talib Meeting

NC262216 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] People's Assembly Speaker Dr Sufi Abu Talib has emphasized the importance for Europe of peace and stability in the Middle East. He also voiced his hope that a joint delegation of Jordan and the Palestinians will be formed to start the negotiations before the U.S. elections. Abu Talib made these remarks during a meeting he held today with the delegation of the European Parliament currently visiting Cairo under the chairmanship of the Parliament's liberal group.

Abu Talib explained the importance of the efforts by Egyptian and European diplomacy to convince Israel to enter the negotiations.

He expressed his hope that economic cooperation between Egypt and the EEC will increase, that the EEC will participate in the integration projects between Egypt and Sudan and that relations between the Egyptian People's Assembly and the European Parliament will be strengthened.

The chairman and members of the European Parliament delegation expressed readiness to convey the wishes, views, and proposals expressed during the meeting to the European Parliament and to continue to coordinate relations between the two bodies.

Muhyi ad-Din Reception

NC271416 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Text] During his meeting today with the European Parliament's delegation, which is currently visiting Cairo, Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din discussed the developments of the situation in the Middle East and the role of the European Parliament, as representative of the European Community, in the establishment of a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East and in easing world tension.

Talks With 'Ali

NC271549 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1520 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, 27 Mar (MENA) -- Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, during a meeting today with the European Parliament delegation currently visiting Cairo under Luc de Ryke, reviewed the latest developments in the Middle East and the efforts being made to boost the peace process.

'Ali reasserted that the Palestinian question is the crux of the Middle East problem and that the Palestinian people's right to self-determination is the key to solving the Palestinian problem. He also affirmed the importance of an effective European role to give momentum to the peace efforts. He demanded an immediate Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon and the return of Lebanese sovereignty to Lebanon. He said that the Israeli invasion of Lebanon is considered to be a basic obstacle in the way of the efforts being made to establish a just and overall peace in the area.

'Ali on USSR Ties

NC271904 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has declared that Egypt is working for the achievement of a comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East and for overcoming the obstacles which Israel is creating, such as the continued establishment of settlements and the aggression against Lebanon.

During his meeting today with the members of the European Parliament delegation which is currently visiting Egypt, 'Ali said that Egypt adheres to a nonaligned policy and that its relations with the United States and the European states do not affect its adherence to this policy. He said that the relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union are normal [tabi'iyah].

'Ali also dealt with Egypt's position vis-a-vis U.S. President Reagan's initiative, pointing out that Egypt has announced its acceptance of this initiative, that it has some observations on it, and that the initiative is considered a correct translation of the Camp David agreement. 'Ali praised the recent EEC statement on the Middle East, describing it as positive and constructive.

'Ali Remarks on Israel

NC272234 Paris AFP in English 2226 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, March 27 (AFP) -- Israeli annexation policies in the occupied territories and aggression against Lebanon block Jordanians and Palestinians from participating in the Middle East process, Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali said Sunday.

In a meeting with a European Parliamentary delegation here, Mr 'Ali added that Syrian troops in Lebanon would leave as soon as Israeli forces pulled out.

Israeli policies "give the major powers the chance to intervene in the Middle East," the foreign minister said in the second Egyptian blast at Israel in 24 hours.

On Saturday, the fourth anniversary of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali said that "Israeli policies threaten the peace process and prevent the establishment of peace in the region."

The European Parliamentary delegation, led by Luc Beyer de Ryke of Belgium, also met with President Husni Mubarak and Prime Minister Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din.

The delegation leaves Cairo on Tuesday for Amman.

Depart 29 March

NC290953 Cairo MENA in English 0850 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, March 29 (MENA) -- The delegation of the European Parliament left here today for Amman for a visit within the context of a tour of a number of [states in] the area.

The delegation had met during its three-day visit with President Husni Mubarak and People's Assembly Speaker Dr Sufi Abu Talib.

'ALI, INDIAN ENVOY DISCUSS NONALIGNED ISSUES

NC281838 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Cairo, 28 Mar (MENA) -- Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has stated that today he discussed with the Indian ambassador to Egypt, Alfred Sylvester Gonsalves, the results of the Nonaligned Summit Conference that was recently held in New Delhi.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that the Indian ambassador affirmed that Mrs Indira Gandhi, Indian prime minister and chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, is continuing to follow up all the resolutions that were passed at the conference.

'Ali added that the Indian ambassador also affirmed that Mrs Indira Gandhi will take action, in conjunction with the nonaligned states concerned, on the resolutions passed by the conference, particularly concerning the North-South dialogue, the relaxation of East-West tension and the South-South dialogue. Action will also be taken by the seven-member committee on the Middle East and Palestinian issues.

The foreign minister mentioned that the discussion also dealt with the proposal Egypt made at the conference concerning the nonaligned states' security.

'Ali stated that he expressed his conviction that this subject -- which was tabled as a conference document to ensure that it will be raised again -- necessitates the formation of a committee to complete the study that is being conducted on it. This study will ensure that the subject will be consistent from all perspectives with the Nonaligned Movement.

GHALI COMMENTS ON EEC STATEMENT ON LEBANON

NC251414 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1245 GMT 25 Mar 83

[From "With the Foreign Policy" program]

[Text] The EEC summit has issued a statement at the end of its meetings in Brussels. The statement defines the EEC's stance on the Middle East and on several other issues. On the EEC statement and Egypt's stand, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali says:

[Begin recording] In fact, Egypt supports the statement because it expresses the EEC's anxiety toward the harm done to the Lebanese and the Palestinian fronts. Egypt shares the EEC's anxiety.

With respect to the Lebanese question, the statement calls for the withdrawal of all forces from Lebanon immediately and at the same time supports U.S. efforts to achieve this goal. This is also the Egyptian stand, which supports U.S. efforts, supports the Lebanese Government and calls for further diplomatic action to speed up the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon.

With respect to the Palestine question, the European statement reaffirms the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. This stance is compatible with the Egyptian stand and also supports President Reagan's initiative. The EEC's stance is likewise similar to the Egyptian diplomatic stand.

The European statement denounces the establishment of Israeli settlements, which contravenes international laws and UN resolutions and threatens peace in the area. The Egyptian stand is a firm one which [word indistinct] the Camp David negotiations. It was recorded in several official notes [words indistinct] Cyrus Vance on 13 October 1978 during the negotiations relating to the ratification of the Egyptian-Israeli treaty.

In fact, Egyptian diplomacy welcomes the EEC's statement, regarding it as supporting the Egyptian stand on the Middle East question. [end recording]

MUBARAK MAKES TOUR OF TWO GOVERNORATES

NC271534 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this morning made a 6-hour field tour of the Al-Qalyubiyah and Ash-Sharqiyah Governorates during which he inspected a number of food security and agricultural projects being carried out by the Armed Forces and the Agriculture Ministry in the areas of Shubra Shihab, Anshas, and At-Tall al-Kabir. The president was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister and Defense and War Production Minister Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, Minister of State for Agriculture Dr Yusuf Wali, and Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces Lieutenant General 'Abd Rabb an-Nabi Hafiz.

This visit comes within the framework of the series of surprise visits which the president has been paying to work and production sites to inspect the progress of work and iron out the difficulties facing production requirements.

COMMUNIQUE NO 1,042 ON WAR OPERATIONS ISSUED

JN281722 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Communique No 1,042 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 28 March]

[Text] The chivalrous soldiers of lofty Iraq continued their daring activities in the operational sectors against the forces of the rancorous, treacherous, ruling clique in Iran. The following are the results for last night and today:

1. A force of our forward formations raided enemy observation posts and positions in Maysan operational sector. A fierce battle ensued between our force and the enemy, in which all types of weapons were used. The enemy sustained casualties and was seen removing them from the battlefield. Our force destroyed one vehicle and two observation posts in the same area.

2. Using various types of weapons, one of our forward units pounded an enemy troop concentration in the central operational sector, killing five and wounding others.

3. One of our units, using artillery, shelled an enemy troop concentration east of Basra, killing two, wounding a number of others, and destroying one medium-caliber machinegun.

4. The suspect Khomeyni regime today shelled with artillery Basra, Mandali, At-Tib, and Zurbatiyah. The enemy shelling left one civilian wounded and some civilian installations in Basra damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 28 March 1983

INA: GROUND DEFENSES SHOOT DOWN IRANIAN PLANE

JN290941 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0935 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Mar (INA) -- Iraqi antiaircraft defenses today shot down an Iranian aircraft which tried to approach the international borders in the Ash-Shib area in the Maysan operational sector, a military source told INA a short while ago.

The source said that two enemy aircraft at 1100 today tried to approach our international borders in the Ash-Shib area in the Maysan operational sector. Our antiaircraft defenses intercepted them and shot down one of them. It was seen exploding in the air, while the other enemy aircraft fled the area.

NA'IM HADDAD COMMENTS ON VISIT TO USSR

JN252042 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2015 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Mar (INA) -- National Council Speaker Na'im Haddad and his delegation returned here tonight at the conclusion of a 7-day visit to the USSR at the invitation of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. Haddad told INA that his talks with Vasiliy Kuznetsov, first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, were beneficial and fruitful. He added that the Iraqi and Soviet sides exchanged views on the international situation and the situation in the Arab region, particularly the Iraqi-Iran war.

The National Council speaker said that Kuznetsov emphasized the importance of exerting effort to stop the fighting and of holding negotiations between Iraq and Iran to safeguard their rights. Haddad added that the Soviet officials (?praised) Iraq's peaceful stands, its response to the international endeavors to stop the war, and its acceptance of the UN Security Council resolution in this regard.

They noted with satisfaction Iraq's proposals to the Nonaligned Summit Conference in New Delhi on 12 March, which called for forming an arbitration commission to discuss the Iraq-Iran conflict.

Na'im Haddad pointed out that the Soviet officials had expressed their keen desire to deepen the channels of friendship, cooperation, and relations with Iraq in the political, economic, social, and cultural spheres.

TARIQ 'AZIZ CONFERS WITH YASIR 'ARAFAT 28 MAR

JN281935 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1905 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Mar (INA) -- This evening, Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and members of his delegation. The strong fraternal ties between Iraq and the PLO were discussed during the meeting, which was attended by Chief of Intelligence Barzan Ibrahim at-Tikriti. The two sides also made a comprehensive review of the developments in the Arab situation and their repercussions on the Palestinian question.

The discussions also dealt with the topics on the agenda of the Jerusalem Committee, scheduled to convene early next month. They also discussed the outcome of the Nonaligned Summit Conference which recently convened in New Delhi. The meeting was attended by Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces.

'Arafat Leaves Baghdad

JN291117 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] It has been reported that Yasir 'Arafat left Baghdad for Damascus where he will preside over a PLO Executive Committee meeting.

A well-informed source in Amman said that 'Arafat will not leave for Jordan before Thursday -- that is not before Sultan Qabus ends his official visit to Jordan, which begins today.

$500 MILLION LOAN GRANTED; PRC CONTRIBUTOR

NC281756 Paris AFP in English 1716 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Paris, March 28 (AFP) -- Iraq was accorded a 500 million dollar Euro-credit here today by a consortium of 34 international banks that included massive Arab participation as well as the unusual participation of the Bank of China.

The funds, officially for civil use, are generally assumed by the financial community to be linked with Iraq's war with Iran.

The credit is for a period of five years, at a rate one percent above the London Inter-Bank Offered Rate (LIBOR). It took more than four years to negotiate, an unusually long period.

Officiating at the signing ceremony at the headquarters of UBAF (Union des Banques Arabes et Francaises) were UBAF President Mohammad Abu Shadi, Iraqi Plenipotentiary Minister A.W. as-Samarra'i, and the president of the Iraqi Rafidain Bank, 'Abd al-Majid al-'Ani.

Heading the banking consortium are UBAF, Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait, Arab African International Bank/Al-Bahrain Arab African Bank, Arab Bank, Arab Investment Company, Baii' Banque Nationale de Paris, Chase Manhattan, Gulf International Bank, Gulf International Bank [as received] and Irving Trust.

Swiss, Japanese and West German banks were hardly represented at all, mainly for political reasons.

The Bank of China contributed three million dollars -- proof, observers added, of a certain Chinese bias towards Baghdad in its war with Iran.

The Paris representative of the Bank of China, Yang Lingqun, would not comment on this observation, saying only that China now wanted to take a bigger part in bank lending consortiums.

RCC DECREE EXCUSES DEBTS, TAXES OF POW'S IN IRAN

JN281124 Baghdad ATH-THAWRAH in Arabic 24 Mar 83 p 6

[Text] ATH-THAWRAH has learned that the Revolution Command Council [RCC] has issued a new decree in the interest of prisoners of war and the missing in action. Under this decree, they will be excused payment of their debts to the government and the interests accrued. Court orders to evict their families from their rented houses or apartments shall be suspended. The following is the text of the decree:

Decree No 344 -- According to the provisions of Paragraph A., Article 42 of the provisional constitution, the RCC decreed the following in its session on 20 March 1983:

I. The following provisions shall be applied to prisoners of war and the missing, including Army regulars, conscripts, reserves, popular army fighters, internal security men, and volunteers who took part in the battle with the Persian enemy:

1. The debts, interest, and taxes the prisoner of war or missing person owes the government shall be suspended until the prisoner returns or until the fate of the missing is known. Money paid [to government] before the issuance of this decree shall not be refunded.

2. The suspension shall not include the adequate support the prisoner of war or the missing has to pay to his wife according to a judicial verdict that should be implemented.

3. The family of the prisoner of war or the missing person -- wife and children for the married and the parents for the bachelor -- shall be entitled to receive the car ordered by the prisoner of war or the missing at the general establishment for automobile trading.

4. Court orders to evict families of prisoners of war and missing persons from houses or apartments previously rented by them shall be suspended. This suspension shall not apply to eviction orders issued in the interest of a military leasor.

5. Implementation of contracts signed with the government if the prisoner of war or the missing person is one party to them shall be suspended. Fines due to delayed implementation of these contracts shall be suspended.

II. This decree shall be implemented as of the date of its publication in the fficial Gazette. Its provisions shall be applicable to those who were lost or captured prior to the date of validation.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, Revolution Command Council chairman

AL-HADAF SAYS KING HUSAYN TO VISIT U.S. 18 APR

GF251239 Doha QNA in Arabic 1133 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] Kuwait, 25 Mar (QNA) -- The Kuwaiti weekly AL-HADAF reported that King Husayn will make an official visit to Washington on 18 April and that he will be taking with him the results of his forthcoming meeting with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

Citing diplomatic sources, AL-HADAF said that during his visit, King Husayn will be carrying three basic ideas on Jordan's view of the Middle East process.

AL-HADAF said these ideas deal with Jordan's request to separate the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue from the U.S. efforts to establish peace in the Middle East, and to rule out negotiations unless the Israeli invasion forces withdraw from Lebanon, regardless of the kind of agreement that defines such a withdrawal.

AL-HADAF said that the third idea which the Jordanian monarch will be carrying to his meeting with U.S. President Reagan is to ask the Reagan administration to make effective efforts to end the Iraq-Iran war.

AL-HADAF said these diplomatic sources believe that King Husayn's visit will determine Jordan's final position toward the Middle East peace process during U.S. President Reagan's term.

EDITORIAL VIEWS U.S. ARMS DEALS WITH ISRAEL

JN251106 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 25 Mar 83 p 1

[Editorial: "The Israeli Weapons Are a Step in the Wrong Direction"]

[Text] The Middle East once again returns to the arms race, which ignores the urgent issues of the region for the sake of the competition between the superpowers.

The U.S. ait-to-air missiles deal with Israel and lifting the embargo on selling fighter planes to Israel coincide with an escalated Israeli campaign against the SAM-5's in Syria and the Soviet crews who are manning them. Israel uses every opportunity to break away from its international isolation, reinforce its military machine, maintain its military superiority over the Arab countries, and delude the West that it is the spearhead in confronting Soviet influence in the region.

The announcement of the U.S. arms deal with Israel at this time shows to what extent Israel is able to twist the arm of the U.S. Administration and force this administration to adopt decisions which harms its peace plan and efforts to create an atmosphere which will achieve peace in the Middle East. It is obvious that the Israeli motive is to convince the West that U.S. and Israeli interests are identical, especially in confronting Soviet influence in the region.

Reinforcing Israeli military power means reinforcing its adherence to its current positions, which reject international legality and consensus as well as the U.S. efforts to find an opportunity for achieving peace. This reinforcement tacitly means approving Israel's forceful policies, beginning with settlements and Judaization of the West Bank, and ending with its attempt to draw the map of the Middle East in a way that suits its interests.

We may understand Washington's procrastination in putting pressure on Israel to force it to respond to the peace efforts in the region, but it is hard to understand how the United States could allocate $2.5 billion this year as economic and military aid along with an abundance of arms programs to Israel, and at the same time, claim that it is concerned about achieving peace in the Middle East. An increase in the Israeli arms programs harms the stated U.S. peace efforts, involves the region again in the arms race, and sacrifices the issues of the region for the sake of international polarization and conflicting international interests.

JORDANIAN-SFRY ECONOMIC COMMITTEE RECONVENES

JN281250 Amman Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] The joint Jordanian-SFRY committee continued its meetings at the Ministry of Industry and Trade today. Two expert subcommittees have been formed. The first will discuss all aspects of trade relations and the second will discuss bilateral economic cooperation, particularly in the field of joint ventures, the Yugoslav side's participation in the implementation of development projects in Jordan, and the allocation of various scientific scholarships for Jordan.

PRINCE HASAN ADDRESSES EEC DELEGATION ON MIDDLE EAST

JN272036 Amman Domestic Television Service in English 2000 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan has said that the achievement of a just Middle East peace is the sole guarantee for the safety of the region's peoples. Addressing the opening of the EEC spring festival at the royal cultural center, Prince Hasan said it was high time for the world community to take a firm stand against the Israeli aggression.

Noting that the Middle East was now facing fateful situation concerning the search for peace, the crown prince said Middle East peace and security have a direct impact on Europe. He went on to say that a just settlement could only be achieved if the Palestinian people's national rights were fully guaranteed.

Prince Hasan expressed appreciation for the European stand, which found expression in the 1980 Venice Declaration and the recent EEC leaders' statement in Brussels. He said repeated Israeli aggressions, including the invasion of Lebanon, require stepped-up efforts and greater EEC contribution to the search for peace in the region. The prince praised the existing economic and cultural cooperation between Jordan and the EEC. Prince Hasan, meanwhile, inspected various pavilions set up at the center by EEC states as part of the festival.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan has reviewed Jordan-EEC relations with the vice president of the commission of the EEC, Lorenzo Natali. Discussion at the meeting also focused on means of bolstering cooperation between Jordan and EEC countries.

Prince Hasan briefed Natali on the Israeli inhuman practices and persistent attempts to evict the indigenous Palestinian population from the lands in the occupied territories. Natali replied that EEC countries had voiced their view on the Middle East situation through the statement issued in Brussels last week by EEC leaders. President of the national planning council Dr Hanna 'Awdah was present at the meeting.

AL-WAZZAN DISCUSSION WITH USSR'S SOLDATOV

NC281238 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan at noon today met at the Republican Palace with Soviet Ambassador Aleksandr Soldatov and reviewed with him the current situation.

USSR Demands Israeli Withdrawal

NC281416 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1330 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Soviet Ambassador to Lebanon Aleksandr Soldatov has stated that his country regards Israel as an aggressor and demands [tutalib] that the aggressor unconditionally and immediately leave all Lebanese territory against which it has committed an aggression.

After a meeting with Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, Soldatov said that the Soviet Union will not interfere in Lebanon's internal affairs and that the Lebanese people should decide their own questions by themselves. He added: As in the past, we believe that Lebanon must be independent, free, and sovereign.

Soldatov on Israeli Threats

NC281739 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and Soviet Ambassador to Lebanon Aleksandr Soldatov today discussed the tripartite negotiations and the diplomatic moves to support the Lebanese cause internationally. After the meeting, Soldatov reiterated his country's well-known stand on the situation in Lebanon.

On Moscow's stand should a Syrian-Israeli military confrontation take place in the Al-Biqa', Ambassador Soldatov said that the Israeli threats must be denounced by the United Nations and world public opinion.

AL-WAZZAN FIRM ON SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS

NC280738 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan has emphasized Lebanon's firm stands and convictions emanating from its will and determination to ensure its rights and full sovereignty.

Al-Wazzan said: Israel demands security arrangements in the southern area to protect its security. We do not say that we are responding to Israel's desire when we stress that it is the duty of every free and sovereign country to maintain security on its territory and that it is the citizens' duty to rally around their Army and the legitimate authority. The acceptance of the idea of serving the flag is a new expression of the citizens' intention to bolster the legitimate authority and its Army. Thus we seek in the presence of Israel and in its absence to consolidate security in our land in order to prevent any violation of the state's authority. This is why the state has turned to building the Army and rearranging conditions in the Internal Security Forces and the Army so that they may become the State's strong Army everywhere in Lebanon.

The prime minister went on: No state wants an armed group or groups on its territory because their presence affects its internal security before affecting the security of its neighbors. On this basis, we are determined that there should be no illegal forces on Lebanese territory.

HABIB RETURNS TO BEIRUT; TALKS 'STAGNATED'

NC281215 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] U.S. Presidential envoy Ambassador Philip Habib returned to Beirut at 1315 today to brief Lebanese officials on the results of the discussions he held in Israel in the past 2 days to accelerate the tripartite negotiations and ensure the withdrawals from Lebanon. In the meantime the reports indicate that the discussions are still in a state of stagnation because of Israel's insistence on giving a major role to Major Haddad and his forces in the security arrangements which it intended to adopt in the south.

AL-JUMAYYIL, AL-WAZZAN MEET WITH U.S. ENVOYS

NC281550 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] At 1600 today President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil chaired a meeting attended by the prime minister, the foreign minister, and Ambassadors Habib, Draper, and Dillon, to learn from the U.S. presidential envoy the Israeli stand on the recent proposals.

The Lebanese officials have expected the negotiations this week to enter a new phase in light of what Ambassador Habib has brought with him.

Israel has recently returned to adopting a hard line. Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has emphasized the importance of the role which Major Sa'd Haddad must play in any security settlement in southern Lebanon. As for the Israeli education minister, he has proposed a partial Israeli withdrawal up to Nahr al-Awwali.

AL-JUMAYYIL CHAIRS MEETING; SALIM MEETS HABIB

NC282108 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] At 1500 today, President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil chaired a working meeting of the political operations room staff. The meeting was dedicated to assessing the situation and developments in light of the present contacts regarding the current negotiations for achieving the withdrawal of the foreign forces from Lebanon.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim, negotiations coordinator general Ambassador Ghassan Tuwayni, Dr Wadi' Hadda, Army Commander General Ibrahim Tannus, head of the Lebanese negotiating delegation Dr Antoine Fattal, and Staff Brigadier General 'Abbas Hamdan.

At 1600, U.S. Presidential envoy Philip Habib and his aides Morris Draper, U.S. Embassy legal adviser (Krascu), and General Davis arrived at the Republican Palace. Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim received them in one of the palace's anterooms and learned from the U.S. delegation the results of its contacts with the Israeli side and the stand it has brought with it on the proposals for accelerating the tripartite negotiations. This meeting lasted until 1800, after which Ambassador Habib and his companions left the palace with Habib, as usual, not making a statement.

Afterward, Minister Salim went to President al-Jumayyil's office, where he presented to the president a report on the results of his talks with Ambassador Habib. The foreign minister then met with Prime Minister al-Wazzan and Gen Tannus for the same purpose.

Ambassador Habib is scheduled to meet tomorrow with the president of the republic, the Chamber of Deputies speaker, and the prime minister to brief them on his contacts and the new developments in the Israeli stand. He will leave Beirut for Washington on Wednesday to spend the holiday period with his family. He will return to the area at the beginning of next week.

AL-WAZZAN, SA'IB SALAM MEET WITH HABIB 29 MAR

NC291054 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] U.S. Presidential envoy Ambassador Philip Habib this morning met with Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan at the Republican Palace to appraise the latest developments in the negotiations which are passing through a freezing phase because of the new Israeli conditions.

Ambassador Habib declined to make any statement but told newsmen: Prime Minister al-Wazzan will talk to you.

At 0830 today, the U.S. envoy met with Former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam at his home in Al-Musaytibah. They reviewed the phases of the negotiations and the obstacles which are still impeding an agreement on the Israeli forces' withdrawal from Lebanon.

Ambassador Habib is to meet later with President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil and with Chamber of Deputies Speaker Kamil al-As'ad before leaving for Israel to convey the Lebanese stance to the Tel Aviv authorities.

BEIRUT RADIO ON ISRAELI STAND ON U.S. PROPOSALS

NC281734 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil met at 1600 today with U.S. Presidential envoy Philip Habib, who returned from Israel today. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim. Earlier, President al-Jumayyil had met with Al-Wazzan and Salim to assess the situation in light of the information available to the government.

Despite the fact that the U.S. presidential envoy has returned to the area in the wake of the meetings held in Washington with the Lebanese and Israeli sides, the Israeli information media today continued to emphasize that Habib has not succeeded in securing Tel Aviv's support for the U.S. proposals. Lebanon has declared its acceptance of the proposals, provided the U.S. Administration secures Israel's support and commitment to realize these proposals.

However, Lebanese political circles are inclined to regard what is being reported by the information media as different from what is taking place in the talks. For this reason, Lebanese political circles believe that things are not likely to be as depicted in the information media, as that would be very surprising. These circles are awaiting the impressions on the situation that the Lebanese delegation will bring back with it from Netanya on Thursday.

It is worth noting at this point what is being reiterated about the U.S. Administration's need to achieve a success in Lebanon at present -- that such a success would encourage Jordan and the moderate Arab states to open negotiations for a comprehensive solution. However, Jordan and Egypt, as well as the rest of the moderate Arab states, are still insisting on the need for the achievement of complete withdrawals from Lebanon so that Arab public opinion will accept reliance on the U.S. role in the negotiations for a comprehensive solution.

SOVIET, IRANIAN, LIBYAN EXPERTS INSPECT AL-BIQA'

NC261254 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] Today, an atmosphere of tension prevailed over the south, Al-Biqa', and the north. Voice of Lebanon has learned that four Soviet experts together with other Iranian and Libyan military experts arrived at noon today in the Duhur ash-Shuwayr area and its suburbs. The radio correspondent has learned that those experts are conducting a field and geological survey for military purposes. Meanwhile, it has been noticed that the Syrian forces are taking extraordinary secuirty measures along the Duhur ash-Shuwayr-Shtawrah road in Al-Biqa'.

ISRAELI PATROL AMBUSHED IN MOUNTAIN 28 MAR

NC281928 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] An Israeli patrol was ambushed by leftists at 2040 today in the Dahr al-Wahsh area. Preliminary reports do not mention the extent of losses sustained by the Israeli patrol.

SYRIANS, ISRAELI REPORTED REINFORCING POSITIONS

NC290717 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Excerpt] The Syrian forces yesterday continued building fortifications and bunkers and opening military roads along most of the axes and contact lines in the Al-Biqa'. Syrian bulldozers were seen deployed in the hills overlooking Kamid al-Lawz township. These reinforcements come after some Syrian positions twice came under Israeli artillery fire, once during the day and the other during the night, in the last 48 hours.

On the occasion of Jewish Passover, the Israelis yesterday closed the crossing point between Jubb Jannin and Ghazzah, which will also remain closed today.

There were intensive Israeli overflights in southern Lebanon. The Israelis reinforced their positions in the An-Nabatiyah area and along the coastal line between Az-Zahrani and Tyre.

In the mountain, the sound of rockets was heard yesterday in Dahr al-Wahsh. The Israelis cut the road from 'Alayh to Al-Kahhalah. The cause of the explosions is unknown. The Israeli forces set up a roadblock supported by two tanks and a personnel carrier at the Galerie Sim'an traffic circles where it subjected vehicles and travelers to a strict search.

VOL CLAIMS KHOMEYNI ORDERS IRANIANS TO LEAVE

NC290858 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon has learned from well-informed diplomatic sources that the Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeyni has ordered the Iranian gunmen in Al-Biqa' to return to Iran. The order stipulated that this was because the Iranian Revolution guards will not be able to deploy in other Lebanese areas where they could fight Israel. The order did not include the Iranians who were entrusted with disseminating Islamic teachings in the Al-Biqa'.

The Voice of Lebanon has learned that the Iranian gunmen have already started preparations for leaving Lebanon.

TRANSFER OF ISRAELI POW'S TO TUNISIA REPORTED

NC281256 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon has learned that the eight Israeli captives have been transferred to Tunisia preparatory to the exchange of captives between Israel and the Palestinians which will take place soon. Israel is to hand over 1,000 Palestinian prisoners who are inside Israel.

AL-AS'AD, AL-WAZZAN ON PARLIAMENTARY MEETING

NC262040 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Excerpts] At a meeting in which 51 deputies participated, the parliamentary committees today called on the government to put the capable Arab countries before their responsibilities regarding the consequences of discussing solutions of the area's question before the complete withdrawals from Lebanon are effected. The committees expressed the opinion that Israel is persisting in its endeavors to link the Lebanese crisis with the Middle East crisis through flimsy pretexts -- a matter that makes any Arab disregard of this fact serve the conspiracy not only against Lebanon but against an entire comprehensive solution.

The meeting of the defense, security, administration, justice, economy, and trade committees was held under the chairmanship of Speaker al-As'ad and in the presence of Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan as well as Ministers Salim, 'Isam Khuri, Shaykhani, and Halawi. The meeting lasted from 1115 to 1500.

Following the meeting, Speaker al-As'ad made a statement in which he explained the Chamber of Deputies' views at this stage.

He said: [begin recording] We discussed various aspects of the crisis in order to clarify views. The committees have not issued a recommendation, as we have become accustomed after any such meeting, but this does not mean that there is not an identity of views, because the contrary is true. I can affirm that the Chamber of Deputies, with its various members who are meeting with the framework of the various committees, holds the same view and stand regarding the same goal, namely, to work for liberating the homeland within the red line which pertains to Lebanon's sovereignty, [word indistinct] and entity. This plan, which has so far been followed by the government, represents the people's will.

The basic ambition we have always spoken about has become clear -- that Israel covets the south and its waters. This was first indicated in a new proposal concerning the security area in the south and a military presence for the Israeli forces there. Second, as we learned today, Israel has proposed linking the Lebanese crisis with that of the Middle East. In this way Israel is aiming at undermining the Lebanese solution by linking it to a comprehensive solution, despite the fact that it is not prepared to accept a comprehensive solution. Vis-a-vis this stand, there must be a responsible official move by the Arab countries concerned, to show these Arab officials their responsibilites, because by their inclination toward a linkage of the two crises, they would be implementing a Israeli aim. [end recording]

Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan said:

[Begin recording] It was a very useful session. We consulted with the deputies, who are following the national fateful questions with us in these circumstances with full cooperation and with an identity of views.

We feel that we are following the same course in working for the national interest. We explained in detail all that has taken place so far regarding the discussions at the Nonaligned Conference, in Washington, and with Philip Habib here. Questions have recently been asked about the results we have reached -- the results which were explained by the foreign minister in his recent statements, which he repeated in detail to the deputies. He explained all the facts to us. We also listened to the deputies, who have their own useful views and analyses concerning Arab relationships, Arab stances, international stances, or the stance of the United States, which has taken upon itself a special responsibility. We have accepted this while awaiting implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 508 and 509. Many views and useful proposals were made which we will study, some of which we will present at the appropriate time.

I do not want to say more because, as far as I know, we are awaiting some recommendations or directives that will be issued by the committees and read by the speaker. Thank you.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, Lebanese public opinion has been shocked by the change in the picture of optimism that appeared following the Lebanese delegation's visit to Washington. There is now a pessimism concerning the reports received from the negotiations.

[Answer] No one should consider anything strange. The world is made of days and nights. In the end, when the hour of truth strikes, we must have one stand. Today, we see that all Lebanese feel that they must face this stand. Regardless of what this stand will be, it requires that it should be agreed upon by all the Lebanese. I am happy to see that the Lebanese today realize how much such a united national stand is required of them. We are from this people; we interact with them and take from them and their feelings large quantities of interaction and strength to confront the current phase with courage and strength while at the same time having faith in our right regardless of what the circumstances or stands are from here or there. What is important is that the Lebanese people should have faith in their right and their policy and that they should enlist themselves for consolidating this right under all circumstances. [end recording]

USSR DELEGATION LEAVES DAMASCUS 28 MARCH

JN281500 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1445 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Damascus, 28 Mar (SANA) -- A USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium delegation led by Temirbek Koshoyev, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and chairman of the Kirgiz Supreme Soviet Presidium, left Damascus for Moscow today at the end of an 8-day visit to Syria.

In a predeparture statement, Koshoyev praised the achievements attained by the Syrian Arab people in the various spheres under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad. He stressed that this visit had entrenched the relations of friendship and cooperation between Syria and the USSR, particularly on the parliamentary level.

Concluding his statement, Koshoyev hoped that the Syrian people would achieve more successes on the road to construction and in their just struggle against Zionism, imperialism, and reactionary forces.

AFP: 'ATTAR SAYS USSR WILL FIGHT IF ISRAEL ATTACKS

NC281634 Paris AFP in English 1625 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Damascus, March 28 (AFP) -- The Soviet Union "will take a direct part in fighting" if Israel attacks Syrian forces in Lebanon, according to an interview published here today with Culture Minister Najah 'Attar.

Such a move, the daily TISHRIN quoted her as saying, would change any Israeli-Syrian confrontation from a regional into an international one.

"The American Administration," Mrs 'Attar said, "should take into account the possibility of Soviet intervention in the fighting. Soviet support for Syria will be translated this time by acts and not words.

"In the event of the United States and Israel deciding to explode the situation in the Middle East, Washington this time will have to confront Moscow directly."

Mrs 'Attar referred to recent remarks by Soviet ambassador to Lebanon Aleksandr Soldatov, who had said that the Soviet Union will stand beside Syria in the event of Israeli aggression.

She said his remarks went beyond traditional diplomatic statements, defining "a firm political and military attitude" that constituted a new interpretation of the Soviet-Syrian friendship and cooperation treaty.

(In Beirut, reports received from the eastern Al-Biqa' said that Israeli artillery had since yesterday twice fired on Syrian positions in the western Al-Biqa'.

(The reports said that today the Syrians were observed strengthening their defences on the hills in the Kamid Al-Lawz area in the eastern Al-Biqa'.)

TISHRIN VIEWS U.S. ARMS DEAL TO ISRAEL

JN260848 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Two Kinds of Missiles and Two Kinds of Logic," TISHRIN says: We are waiting for the reaction of the pro-U.S. Arabs to the new arms deal that the United States decided to offer to Israel as a price for its invasion of Lebanon, its perpetuation of its occupation of the occupied territories, and its rejection of all the plans for a just peace. The pro-U.S. Arabs, however, will remain silent as the grave. This is a stand to which they are accustomed every time the United States deals them humiliating and degrading blows and puts them in a corner, thus depriving them of the possibility of even verbal maneuvers.

Of course, this is not the first or last time the United States proves in practice that it adopts the Israeli policies and stands. It is difficult sometimes to differentiate between the policies of the two countries.

If the Arabs need additional proof, this will show them that the United States has been and can only be a full partner in the aggression against the Arabs. We would be insane if we believed that the United States could be neutral in this dispute or could seek a real peace in the region. The United States is seeking a comprehensive Arab capitulation to Israel that will entrench its hegemony over our nation through Israel. Carter was the latest envoy to achieve this.

While waiting for the pro-U.S. Arabs reaction, we would like to question the logic that the United States adopted concerning the new weapons deal to Israel -- the official and overt logic of the deal and the real background which led to this deal.

The U.S. Administration has announced that it will provide Israel with 200 Sidewinder air-to-air missiles as a price for the information it has obtained or will obtain from Israel on the Soviet-made Syrian weapons and their secrets which Israel obtained during its invasion of Lebanon.

At first glance, one realizes that the United States is paying Israel for its invasion of Lebanon. One also realizes that the logical progression is that the United States had prepared for the invasion of Lebanon to achieve several objectives, the most important of which is to deal a mortal blow to Syrian military power with the purpose of obtaining the secrets of its Soviet-made weapons and their logistics, strategic, and tactical features.

Is it not evident that this factor has been the most prominent objective of the invasion for which the United States is rewarding Israel?

TISHRIN adds: If the matter is one of the U.S. defiance of the Arabs and Syria in particular, then the United States undoubtedly can defy anyone as it is a big power that can destroy, kill, and annihilate. But it cannot vanquish or suppress the will of our people, as struggler Al-Asad has said, and cannot impose its hegemony on our people and their destiny and deprive them of the right to fight to impose their peace.

Washington will be mistaken if it believes that it can scare Syria and the Arab nation through such methods. By doing so, the United States would be placing the region in the infinite maze of the arms race where challenges would be faced by counter challenges.

As far as the arms race and arms escalation is concerned, we will go all the way to build our intrinsic strength sparing no efforts or preparations so we will have the opportunity to defend ourselves in an honorable manner and safeguard our national and pan-Arab security. We will not allow this imbalance, which the United States acknowledges, to continue.

Pushing the region to the brink of explosion and inciting Israel to play with fire will in turn lead to a complicated series of explosions that will be difficult to control or whose results and repercussions cannot be contained. The United States, which is a big power with a special responsibility toward world peace and security, will be held primarily responsible for these explosions.

TISHRIN concludes: In the end, the peace that will be established will be the just peace that Syria and the Arab nation are seeking. Capitulation cannot be imposed on us. We will impose the just peace because it will be the peace of the strong and the capable. There will be no other peace, whether in Lebanon or in any of the occupied Arab territories. We will not accept any condition or any foreign presence in Lebanon, regardless of the titles under which they will take place, if this harms Lebanon's sovereignty or territorial integrity and stability, because Lebanon is an organic and fateful part of Syria's security and stability. What we cannot accept for Syria, we also cannot accept for Lebanon.

We would like to remind people of what Al-Asad said in New Delhi. President al-Asad said that they want to strike us while we raise our arms in capitulation and obedience. We tell them that they are squandering their efforts. Their threats do not scare Syria and will not make it budge from its stands. We shall remain prepared to exercise our legitimate right of replying decisively to the aggression.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES PNC SPEAKER, PLEDGES SUPPORT

JN271922 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Text] At 1730 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Khalid al-Fahum, speaker of the PNC. The discussion dealt with the current situation in the region in light of the imperialist and Zionist attempts to liquidate the Palestine question and force the Arabs to surrender.

The president stressed Syria's firm principled stand on the Palestine question and its past and future support for the Palestinian revolution. It also stressed its opposition to any attempt to liquidate the Palestine question or impose solutions at the expense of the Palestine question, or the Palestinian Arab people.

Al-Fahum told journalists that his meeting with the president was extremely positive and fruitful and that the discussion dealt with the imperialist-Zionist onslaught on the region in general. The president assured him that Syria stands firmly in support of the Palestine question and that it will continue to back this question and the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people by all possible means.

PALESTINE BROADCAST ON NEXT HUSAYN-'ARAFAT MEETING

JN290728 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Palestine broadcast: From "On the Events" program]

[Text] Brothers on the path of revolution and liberation: What does King Husayn expect from his meeting with Brother Yasir 'Arafat in Amman in light of which he will make his decision to join the negotiations on the basis of the Reagan plan?

Perhaps what the king expects is confined to one point; it is to pretend that he has exerted his effort to try to persuade the PLO [to join the negotiations] and that he has only ignored it after exhausting this effort. This is because the Palestinian position is known in advance. PNC has defined this position in a detailed and specific manner.

The PNC has rejected the Reagan plan. It has also refused to authorize anyone to represent the PLO. Furthermore, the PNC has rejected the joint delegation formula and warned any Palestinian leader from the West Bank or Gaza against volunteering to participate in the negotiations as this would be considered a deviation from Palestinian national unanimity. All that has been approved by the PNC represents a position contrary to the U.S. imperialist plan, through which the United States seeks to liquidate the Palestine question. Nobody can bypass Palestinian national will as embodied in the PNC. Undoubtedly, King Husayn knows this. He also knows the Palestinian people's adherence to this clear and specific national position in face of the Reagan plan.

Will the king go to Washington to inform Mr Ronald Reagan of the rejection of his plan, or will he go to Washington to inform it that he has decided to wash his hands of the PLO and participate in the negotiations irrespective of the PLO's rejection of these negotiations? This is the question posed now, and the answer to it will become clear in the next few days.

TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES 27 MARCH

JN271910 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Text] Turkish Foreign Minister Ilter Turkmen arrived in Damascus tonight on a 4-day visit to Syria. He was met at Damascus International Airport by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; the assistant foreign minister; the directors of the West European, legal, and protocol departments in the Foreign Ministry; the Syrian ambassador to Turkey; and the Turkish ambassador in Damascus and members of the embassy staff.

Khaddam, Turkmen Hold Talks

JN281330 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Ilter Turkmen, Turkish foreign minister, held an expanded session of talks this morning. The two sides discussed current international relations, the situation in the Middle East, and bilateral relations. Earlier, Khaddam and Turkmen held a closed meeting.

More Talks Held

JN282043 Damascus SANA in Arabic 2010 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Damascus, 28 Mar (SANA) -- The Syrian Arab delegation under 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Turkish delegation under Foreign Minister Ilter Turkmen held a second round of talks here today in the presence of members of the two delegations.

The two sides completed their talks on bilateral relations, current world issues, and the Middle East situation.

The first round of talks was held here earlier today. The Turkish foreign minister and his delegation arrived in Damascus yesterday evening on a 4-day official visit to Syria.

HABIB IMPARTIALITY ON LEBANON QUESTIONED

TA281021 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 28 Mar 83 p 2

[Report by Razi Gutterman, Ilan Kfir, and Menahem Rahat]

[Excerpt] Israel has complained that the United States is employing a one-sided position in the negotiations over the Lebanon problem in order to spur Husayn on to joining the peace process.

Jerusalem politicians say this in view of information Israel has obtained from Western sources to the effect that the U.S. Administration has instructed Philip Habib to make every conceivable effort to conclude the negotiations between Israel and Lebanon quickly, while expressing maximum support for the stiff line exemplified by Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil and thus help Husayn make a positive decision regarding his joining the process.

Jerusalem is dismayed that U.S. envoy Philip Habib presented to Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and the senior political echelon in Jerusalem last night a U.S. position identical to the Lebanese one, particularly over the crucial question of the future of Major Sa'd Haddad and his status.

A highly placed political figure in Jerusalem told MA'ARIV last night at the end of the meeting with Habib: "It was an absolute disappointment. Habib told us what we have been hearing from Beirut. It is not clear to us why, in order to tell us what the Lebanese position is, he had to travel all the way from Beirut to Jerusalem."

RABIN WANTS HABIB TO ATTEND COMMITTEE SESSION

TA271141 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 27 Mar 83 p 6

[Report by Shlomo Naqdimon]

[Text] MK Yitzhaq Rabin would like to convene the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee to meet with envoy Philip Habib in order to hear a direct report on the obstacles preventing a peace agreement in Lebanon. Rabin thinks that the government has softened its positions considerably and that on the subject of Major Haddad, which seems to be the only disputed point preventing an agreement, there is a joint position of the government and the opposition.

BEGIN REJECTS LEBANON PULLBACK: URGES FIRMNESS

TA280744 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Mar 83 pp 1, 2

[Report by David Landau and Asher Wallfish]

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin and his top ministers gave notice yesterday that they regard the negotiations with Lebanon as having almost exhausted themselves. But they called for patience and resolve in the deadlock over the future of Major Sa'd Haddad. They did not endorse proposals from a minority of ministers calling for the Israel Defence Forces' unilateral withdrawal to the Al-'Awwali River.

The prime minister observed, winding up a Cabinet review of the negotiations, that Israel would have to recognize that Lebanon and the U.S. did not accept some of its positions. "The day is approaching when we shall have to decide," Begin was quoted by Cabinet sources.

But Begin, Defense Minister Moshe Arens, and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir are maintaining a firm line on the question of Haddad. Shamir told U.S. special envoy Philip Habib once again last night that Israel must insist on the southern Lebanese Christian militia chief continuing to play a key role in ensuring the security of the south and preventing the return of the PLO. Haddad had "proved himself" over the years, Shamir said.

Israel's "bottom line" on Haddad, it seems from various well-placed sources, is that the major must stay in south Lebanon, and retain an "influential position" in policing the area. It appears that Israel might not insist on Haddad's being the titular commander of the region -- provided he is vested with the effective powers on the ground to deploy his force against any PLO effort to reestablish a presence in the area.

Israel wants Haddad and his men to be integrated into a Lebanese Army "territorial brigade" in the south. Lebanon is prepared to integrate the men, but not Haddad. Habib is to return to Beirut today, and there will be another direct negotiating session with the Lebanese in Qiryat Shemona on Thursday.

Israeli sources said Habib had "nothing new" to present on the Haddad problem at his session with Shamir last night. There was, however, some discussion on the issue of joint IDF-Lebanese patrols -- and the view here is that agreement could be reached on this, when and if the Haddad issue is settled.

Sources close to the top three ministers maintained that the outlook is still hopeful for a successful conclusion of the negotiations. They said that once Beirut was made aware of the strength of Israel's feeling regarding Haddad, a formula would be devised enabling the major to stay in the south without the Beirut government having to see this as a slight to its sovereign powers.

But these sources, too, are hinting -- apparently for tactical reasons -- at "other alternatives" which Israel will have to "consider" if the deadlock in the talks persists. This is a veiled reference to the unilateral withdrawal option.

It was thus useful, from the top ministers' standpoint, that four junior ministers -- Uzan, Ben-Porat, Ne'eman, and Tzipori -- should have spoken out at the Cabinet yesterday in favour of a unilateral withdrawal. Likud ministers later privately questioned the motives of at least some of the four, hinting that they had spoken out of internal political considerations. But it seemed that the four's comments did reflect a genuine, though muted, sense of worry and frustration at the slow progress of the Lebanese negotiations.

Yesterday's Cabinet also marked the first instance of criticism of Defence Minister Arens by his predecessor, Ari'el Sharon, now a minister without portfolio.

Qol Yisra'el [Voice of Israel] headlined Cabinet reports with "sharp attacks by Ari'el Sharon on his successor, Defence Minister Moshe Arens," but Sharon's spokesman Uri Dan issued a formal denial, to the effect that "the minister did not attack anybody in any shape or form."

What Sharon apparently did was to list all the elements in the negotiations on which the Israeli team had failed to achieve results, and to ask by what authority the negotiators had dropped demands which formed part of the original Cabinet guidelines to the negotiators last year.

Sharon said that the establishment of early-warning stations or observation posts in Lebanon had been one of Israel's principal demands in the negotiations, because they were intended to give the IDF round-the-clock scrutiny of the security situation.

Now, he said, the demand had apparently been dropped in favour of less-effective ideas which were not yet accepted by the other parties. Sharon said, "There is no reason why we should get down on our knees before the Americans."

Ben-Porat said that Sharon was right in reminding his colleagues of the erosion in Israeli positions.

When Arens, replying to Sharon, said that the negotiators had reached agreement with the Lebanese on "most elements" of the October paper approved by the Cabinet, Sharon countered that the October paper was a framework which had been fleshed out by additional documents which detailed the Israeli position in full, and that the position as further outlined in this way was being abandoned lately in far too many cases.

Energy Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i said that a lot of valuable time had been wasted in the past six months by the Israeli negotiators. They had gained ground in the wording and lost ground in the substance, he charged. Moda'i recalled that two months ago he had tried to persuade his colleagues that the talks focus first on the withdrawal of all foreign forces, and leave bilateral Israel-Lebanon issues till later. He said there were many signs today that Syria had no intention of quitting Lebanon.

Arens replied that Israel had been told by the American negotiators of Syria's readiness to pull its troops out, once agreement had been concluded. Syria's stipulation was that the agreement be consonant with Lebanese sovereignty, according to the American negotiators, he said.

Moda'i commented that Syria's tactic thereby was to prepare an escape clause, to claim if it so desired that Lebanese sovereignty was being violated by whatever agreement had been attained. Moda'i quipped that he got the impression sometimes that the IDF would have to serve as a buffer for the Lebanese Army units guarding the border with Israel, protecting their northern flank from enemies beyond.

Ben-Porat said that he would shortly table a proposal in writing for a unilateral IDF withdrawal to the 40-45 kilometre line. This area would be held until an effective security infrastructure had been created by the Lebanese and their American helpers to make the IDF presence superfluous. Ben-Porat said that Israel could not leave the security of its northern border in the hands of an amorphous entity such as Lebanon is at present.

PLO DENIES, THEN CONFIRMS POW TRANSFER

PLO Denies Exchange

TA281522 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Senior PLO officials have denied the report broadcast by the Lebanese Christian radio saying that an agreement had been obtained with Israel to release the 8 Israeli prisoners in return for the release of 1,000 of the PLO prisoners, and that the date of the release of the prisoners was close. Those officials have also denied that the Israeli prisoners have been transferred to Tunis. They commented that the road to a conclusion of the negotiations was still a long one.

In Israel, too, Foreign Ministry and Defense Ministry spokesmen have said that they know nothing about an agreement about exchanges of prisoners.

In this context, it has been reported that the Fatah organization has established a team to negotiate with members of Ahmad Jibril's organization in order to arrive at a united position on the question of the Israeli prisoners. Ahmad Jibril's organization has declared that it is not interested in negotiations via Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky. Jibril also publicly attacked 'Arafat, demanding that he suspend his talks with King Husayn of Jordan.

He also demanded of 'Arafat that before he negotiates with the Jordanian king, he must cooperate with other PLO organizations on various questions, including, in this context, that of the prisoners.

POW's to Tunis

TA290529 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] A PLO source claims that eight Israeli POW's the organization is holding have been transferred from Damascus to Tunis. The source refused to reveal when the transfer took place and if the captives were still in Tunisia.

Yesterday a Beirut radio station said the POW's had been moved as part of a prisoner exchange deal with Israel. Six of the soldiers are being held by the Fatah organization and the other two are being held incommunicado by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Meanwhile the director general of Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky's office will meet tomorrow with PFLP leader Ahmad Jibril. He will discuss the fate of the two Israeli captives his organization is holding.

KREISKY REPRESENTATIVE NEGOTIATING POW RELEASE

TA280934 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 28 Mar 83 pp 1, 2

[Report by Ya'aqov Erez]

[Text] A top Austrian figure closely associated with Chancellor Bruno Kreisky is now in Damascus as part of the negotiations over the release of the prisoners held by the PLO and the Syrians, and is inquiring about the fate of the missing-in-action.

The Austrian representative has conferred in Damascus with administration leaders there. Authoritative Israeli elements expressed the hope last night that this time this public figure will be able to bring about a change that would ultimately result in the release of the Israeli prisoners.

The Israeli elements believe that the negotiations over the release of the POW's are making progress and that if a turning point in the political negotiations occurs, one can expect the prisoners to be released within a reasonable period of time. The Israeli prisoners held by the Syrians and the terrorists were sent unleavened bread for Passover and wine in the middle of this month through the mediation of Red Cross representatives so that they could properly celebrate the Passover holiday.

The report spread by the terrorists yesterday that the eight PLO-held prisoners had been transferred from the Al-Biqa' area to an Arab country did not sound very authentic in Israel. It is believed that this is part of a psychological effort the terrorists wish to exert upon Israel. Knowledgeable sources in Israel have expressed their agreement to allow the mothers of the prisoners to visit their loved ones in view of statements made by senior PLO members, provided the Red Cross agrees to undertake responsibility and provide it services toward holding that visit. However, these representatives are not inclined to oblige.

IDF, HADDAD INCREASE PATROLS IN E. LEBANON

TA280553 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Security forces, aided by Major Haddad's soldiers, have increased patrols in the eastern sector to prevent the infiltration of Shi'ite extremists from the town of Ba'labakk, in the Lebanese Al-Biqa'. They have also increased control over those entering and leaving Lebanon at the Jubb Janin border crossing.

PENTAGON 'WITHHOLDING' ANOTHER MISSILE DEAL

TA241033 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 24 Mar 83 pp 1,15

[Report from Washington by Refa'el Mann]

[Text] The Pentagon is withholding the announcement to Congress about another missile deal with Israel whose preparation was completed a few months ago, according to Washington sources. The deal involves the sale of 150 Sparrow air-to-air missiles.

U.S. sources yesterday confirmed that the preliminary announcement about the Sidewinder sale was transferred to Congress 3 weeks ago, and therefore it should not be regarded as a reaction to the Israeli announcement about the transfer of information concerning the lessons of the war in Lebanon.

The delay in the announcement to Congress about the sale of the "Sparrow" missiles was ordered by Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger. The Pentagon is not saying when the announcement to Congress can be expected. The preparations for this deal were completed several months ago in contacts between the Defense Ministry's purchasing delegation and the U.S. Pentagon. The delay in the "Sparrow" deal joins the postponement in the announcement to Congress about the sale of 75 F-16's and the approval in the transfer of the technologies required for the development of the Israeli Lavi fighter.

F-16'S, LAVI PRODUCTION KNOW-HOW ASKED OF U.S.

TA281003 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Mar 83 p 3

[Report by Yehuda Litani and Gid'on Samet]

[Text] Security sources report that Israel has been pressuring the U.S. Government lately to resume supplying F-16 aircraft and to receive the know-how necessary for the production of the Lavi aircraft even before the agreement with the Lebanese Government is completed. The defense and foreign ministers are personally involved in this issue and have contacted U.S. representatives on this issue in recent weeks.

The U.S. Administration is discussing releasing additional arms to Israel and it may be that the Sparrow-type air-to-air missiles will soon be supplied, and twice as many as the Sidewinder missiles reported this week. However, Israeli and U.S. sources said yesterday that a postive decision is not expected on the big matters such as the F-16 aircraft.

Israeli circles emphasized that the U.S. Administration's announcement on the Sidewinder missiles is not the compensation Israel hoped to receive in return for its compromising in the Lebanon negotiations and its agreement to hand over the war data. "This is not the present one would have expected," the circles said. According to them, the supply of equipment at low cost, which was promised a long time ago, was used by the U.S. Administration to make an exaggerated impression, although the decision was made still before Israel's official consent to hand over the information.

The sources noted that the inclination in the deliberations underway in the U.S. Administration currently is to wait with the major matters, including that of the technological aid for the Lavi production until real progress is made in Lebanon and Husayn's decision on joining the peace process becomes clear.

Nevertheless, an announcement may soon be made on the supply of 150 Sparrow air-to-air missiles at $40 million and perhaps the activation of second-rate clauses regarding the Lavi production. The Pentagon's opposition to largely activating military matters with Israel continues.

Israeli sources said on the Lebanon negotiations that upon Philip Habib's return to the region the crack which was opened in the Shamir talks in Washington closed again.

The U.S. Administration tried to bridge the Israeli and Lebanese positions during Shamir's visit and an "opening" developed, but this is not being closed down in the region. This means U.S. anticipation of further Israeli concessions.

EYTAN COMMENTS ON LEBANON DEVELOPMENTS, SOVIETS

TA280930 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 0830 GMT 28 Mar 83

["The Failure of Negotiations Does Not Have To Lead to a Renewal of Fighting" -- ITIM headline]

[Text] Tel Aviv, 27 Mar (ITIM) -- Chief of Staff Leutenant General Refa'el Eytan has said that the failure of the negotiations over the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon does not necessarily have to lead to the opening of fire. He was speaking in a special interview granted to IDF radio.

On the possibility of renewed fighting with the Syrians, Eytan said that he has no information indicating that fighting will reerupt in the spring or the start of the summer. It is still impossible to assess whether we will have to fight the Soviets alongside the Syrians, he said.

In the interview, Eytan revealed that the IDF had planned to land forces by sea at Beirut port during the war in Lebanon, but that ultimately it was decided to call off this action. The movement on land was quick and achieved all the goals that had been set for it, he said, and the flanking into the Lebanese capital and the port seemed unnecessary.

The chief of staff raised the possibility that the Soviets would send Syria additional modern weapons systems besides the SAM-5's and that they would also be manned by Soviet teams. Technically this is possible, Eytan said. Politically, there are many conditions for such a step. But the Russians have a large army, Syria is their ally, and this is possible.

The chief of staff thinks that there is a possibility that the Syrians will refuse to leave Lebanon despite an agreement between Israel and Lebanon. "In such an event we will have to rethink our actions," he said.

In his first remarks on the events of Sabra and Shatila since the release of the report by the commission on inquiry, Eytan said: "My conscience is clear. We did not commit the deed. Our moral level was not harmed. If the IDF had been guilty of anything, it would keep me awake. But the IDF is guilty of nothing. The decision to involve the Phalangists in the fighting in Beirut was known and agreed on months earlier, perhaps even 2 years before the war."

JERUSALEM ARABIC ON OBSTACLES TO PEACE TALKS

JN271736 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 27 Mar 83

[From "With the Events" program]

[Text] [Announcer] Yasir 'Arafat is in Riyadh before going to Amman to hold talks which are being described as crucial. Speculations about an agreement between King Husayn and the PLO do not inspire optimism at present. We have in our studio Sha'ul Menashe, our Middle East affairs editor.

[Menashe] Yasir 'Arafat is not the only major obstacle facing King Husayn in the peace talks with Israel. There are 1,001 obstacles. First, King Husayn has to deal with not only Yasir 'Arafat, but also with the various conflicting factions and branches of the PLO.

The lack of harmony is not only with the so-called rejection front within the PLO such as Hawatimah, Jabril, and Habash, but also with the main pillars of the PLO such as Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], 'Arafat's right-hand man, who stood in Kuwait University yesterday and asked: What can His Majesty King Husayn give the Palestinians? Abu Iyad called for consolidating PLO's ties with the Syrian regime, which is hostile to the Jordan regime, on the pretext that King Husayn will not be able to guarantee the Palestinians' rights.

Second, Syria's opposition to the leading role which King Husayn hopes to play in the peace talks is another major obstacle. The Jordanian king will not forget how President al-Asad massed his troops on the border with Jordan in November 1970 and threatened to invade and crush the Jordanian regime, when the Syrian rulers thought that Jordan would participate in the peace talks. The Jordanian regime hopes to overcome this obstacle by gaining overwhelming Arab support for its participation in the talks and thus keeping Syria isolated. But such support is not possible at present.

We have observed that the Jordanian regime is not making a big issue of the rapprochement with the PLO and the possibility of joining the peace talks. This is because the Jordanian regime does not want to antagonize Damascus. For example, at a time when King Husayn is permitting the setting up of some PLO institutions in Amman, discussion about this subject is prohibited in Amman. Why? Because the establishment of these institutions in Amman and the residence of prominent PLO figures in Amman such as Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] and Hani al-Hasan infuriates Damascus.

Furthermore, the Jordanian media have not mentioned the subject of the coming talks between Yasir 'Arafat and Husayn. Amman radio has not said a single word about this up to now.

Third, the dispute between Egypt and the PLO over the PNC statement, which attacked the peace accords and called for liberating the Egyptian people from this accord, has had a negative effect on Jordan's rapprochement with the PLO. This is because Husayn knows full well that the PLO leaders' behavior toward Egypt, the biggest Arab state, could also turn against him when the time comes.

Fourth, King Husayn has set conditions for joining the talks, such as the suspension of the settlement activity and the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon. These conditions are just an excuse. But King Husayn might suffer from such an attitude in the end, because if he concedes these conditions, the Arab world, especially his opponents, would wonder why.

Fifth, King Husayn is facing strong opposition in Jordan to his desire to cooperation with the PLO. The opposition comes from certain public circles, Army command officers, heads of bedouin tribes, and even from some members of the royal family. The opponents say: What we suffered from the PLO in 1970 is enough. Why should Jordan involve itself in this complicated issue? It is enough that Jordan has been the most stable Arab country since 1970, the year in which it expelled the PLO.

Finally, if Jordan is indeed interested in peace, why does it not respond to the call of Israeli Prime Minister Begin and begin direct negotiations without preconditions? Why does it not follow Egypt's example? Egypt did not wait for special permission from 'Arafat and his friends in order to enter the peace negotiations, especially since the Camp David accords speak about the participation of the Palestinians, not the organizations, in the negotiations.

SOVIET-BACKED SYRIAN ACTIVITY IN AL-BIQA'

TA280852 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Mar 83 p 1

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent]

[Text] Syria is conducting intensive military activity along its front positions facing the IDF in the Al-Biqa' region and the "Lebanese Forces" (the Christians) in the Al-Matn area, with the aid of Soviet experts who are patrolling various sections of the front.

Four of these experts yesterday surveyed the Syrian positions in the Shtawrah and the Duhur ash-Shuwayr areas. This activity, which increased with the end of the snow season, includes fortifications, deployment, and absorption of modern Soviet arms and equipment. Arab sources in Beirut who reported this yesterday noted that this activity, which is creating tension along the confrontation lines in Lebanon, is being conducted simultaneously with the visit of a high-level delegation in Damascus and the visit of the head of the Lebanese left front affiliated with Syria and the PLO, Walid Junblatt, in Moscow.

Junblatt, who arrived in Moscow after coordination talks with President al-Asad in Damascus about "increasing the national resistence to the Zionist enemy," yesterday denounced Israel and lauded the steadfastness of the Soviet Union on the Arabs' side. At the end of the week, the left front announced in Beirut its responsibility for the perpetration of 38 terrorist acts against the IDF in the Ash-Shuf and 'Alayh areas as well as in southern Lebanon.

LABOR PARTY'S PERES HOLDS TALKS IN ROMANIA

For Romanian media reportage on the activities during the visit of Chairman of the Labor Party Shim'on Peres, including his meeting with Nicolae Ceausescu, secretary general of the Romanian Communist Party and President of the Socialist Republic of Romania, see the Romania section of the 28 March Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

RABIN COMMENTS ON HERZOG ELECTION TO PRESIDENCY

TA251113 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 25 Mar 83 p 2 Political Supplement

[Commentary by Yitzhaq Rabin: "A Good Election -- But Not a Turning Point"]

[Excerpts] Hayim Herzog's election as the next Israeli president undoubtedly was this week's main event, both because of the person himself and the astonishment and shock that it effected on the coalition's political and parliamentary apparatus.

However, notwithstanding the surprise created by the election to the presidency of the opposition's candidate, its implications must be examined soberly

I have no doubt that Herzog's election as the next Israeli president was also motivated by personal reasons because of his suitability for the post, and because he is very well known to the public and within the political system. His personality and his many spheres of action -- including the representation of Israel in the international arena -- are very well known. Opposite him ran a man who, with all due respect to his personality and deeds, was unknown to the public and even to most Knesset members.

The election's political and parliamentary implications must also be examined soberly. There is no doubt that through their votes, various coalition members were reflecting the tension within the coalition. It seems that Knesset members took this opportunity to express their protest for various reasons. They did not dare do so openly, so they hid behind the curtain. This constitutes a failure for the coalition, which tarnished the prime minister's prestige and his clout over the members of the coalition.

There is no doubt that when 10 percent of the coalition vote against it and are not willing to stand out openly behind their vote, this causes internal tension and suspicions, and certainly does not strengthen the coalition. However, notwithstanding my desire -- as a member of the opposition -- to regard this as a chance for the coalition's dissolution, I am afraid that this is too premature.

To infer from this event that, based on the composition of the 10th Knesset, it would be possible to set up an alternate government led by the Alignment -- that is just going a little bit too far.

As far as the coalition's survival is concerned, there is no special significance to the president's election. This is not a central issue of the government's policy and is not a controversial question.

Therefore, it should not be regarded as a failure of the government's policy. It would thus be a mistake for the Alignment to remain under the same illusion that has for a long time directed its line of action: to stand on its tiptoes hoping that some coalition Knesset members cross the fence. Hence, the Alignment should not be tempted into regarding the significant achievement inherent in Herzog's election to the presidency as a turning point which gives it a chance of setting up a government under its leadership.

True, that is not easy. After such an impressive achievement for the opposition, the coalition may tend to indulge in feelings of weakness. However, the opposition's deployment should be based on long-term actions rather than on an attempt to manipulate the current Knesset's composition.

Also, the chances for holding early elections are not that great. On the contrary, those who voted against the coalition's candidate for the presidency will probably also vote against holding early elections. The chances of establishing a national unity government have also decreased.

Therefore, preference should be given to the long-run deployment which would not deprive us from exploiting other opportunities, whether through a parliamentary upheaval or by early elections.

SPACE AGENCY CONVENES FIRST OFFICIAL MEETING

TA241053 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Mar 83 p 2

[Text] The Israeli Space Agency convened for a first session in Jerusalem yesterday. The agency has been set up according to the decision of the Ministerial Committee on Science and Technology headed by Science and Development Minister Professor Yuval Ne'eman. Its goal is to concentrate all space research issues under a single national umbrella and to suggest to the government activities in the space field.

The general objectives of Israel in the field of space for the coming 10 years were discussed in yesterday's meeting. The agency members elected various subcommittees which will handle all the issues connected with the space agency's activity. The concluding statement of the meeting adds that space is vital for the development of industry and economics in Israel.

Satellite Planned

TA221548 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] Israel will launch a communication satellite it developed by itself within 10 years and will cooperate with other countries in the development and launching satellites. This was stated by Minister Yuval Ne'eman to our science affairs correspondent Meron Tzur a short while after the Israeli Space Agency convened its first meeting, chaired by him. Ne'eman went on to say that a citizen already approached him and offered to be Israel's first astronaut. Ne'eman told our correspondent that the man has the right qualifications, he is experienced in space matters, and is young enough to be used in the future.

AMENDMENT TO WHO-IS-JEW LAW DEFEATED IN KNESSET

TA211713 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Text] The Knesset has struck off its agenda the two proposals for amending the law of return on the who is a Jew issue: 58 Knesset members voted against the proposals and only 50 supported them. Our correspondent Tzvi Yisre'eli reports that it was the members of the Likud's Liberal Party who decided the vote. Six of them voted against the amendment. Minister Mordekhay Ben-Porat abstained.

AFRICAN PARLIAMENTS UNION OPENS CONFERENCE

AB241546 Libreville Africa No 1 in French 1230 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] In Libreville this morning, the African Parliaments Union [UPA] opened its sixth conference. The 11th Executive Committee session has been preparing for the conference for 3 days.

During this conference, the UPA will review the results of its activities since its establishment in 1976. In hopes to focus attention on economic activities in order to respond to development problems faced by the African Continent. Thus, questions related to improving living conditions of the people will be emphasized. The conference will also debate the ways and means of developing relations between member countries as well as the South-South dialogue. The agenda includes discussion of two resolutions, one on inter-African trade and the other on Arab-African cooperation, to which the UPA would like to contribute.

A highlight of the ceremony was the presence of Leon Mebiame, the Gabonese prime minister and head of government, who represented President Omar Bongo. The third deputy prime minister, Emile Kasa-mapsi, and several other member of the Gabonese Government also participated at this inaugural session.

Three speeches were made, the first by (Augustun Mboma), president of the Gabonese National Assembly. Mr (Mboma) wished all the delegations a pleasant stay in Gabon, a friendly and hospital country. He also called for African solidarity in order to fight hand in hand against the world economic crisis. The second speaker, Mr (Apedo Ama), president of the UPA, talked about the question of Namibian independence and the OAU crisis. He also called for international contacts aimed at South-South cooperation. The Gabonese head of government stressed Gabon's pride at hosting the sixth UPA conference, and then he recalled the main objectives of the UPA. He said these objectives are to strengthen the role and the prestige of the parliamentary institution based on African values; to ensure freedom, justice, and representative democracy; to create gradually a truly legal African community founded on the realities of the continent's economic, social, and cultural customs; and finally, to achieve the OAU's objectives in its search for an African peace. The conference will end tomorrow.

Meeting Ends; President Elected

AB260906 Libreville Africa No 1 in French 0630 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Excerpt] The Sixth Conference of the African Parliaments Union [APU] ended in Libreville. The main issues discussed were Afro-Arab cooperation and inter-African trade. The closing session was presided over by the third deputy prime minister, Emile Kassa-Mapsi. The only speech was made by Augustin Boumah, president of the National Assembly of Gabon, who was unanimously elected president of the APU.

OAU SECRETARY GENERAL ON ARAB-AFRICAN COOPERATION

AB251648 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] The sixth session of the Permanent Arab-African Commission which has just taken place in Tunisia enabled the delegates to discuss many topics in the political and economic fields. In an interview to our correspondent (Mohamed Bedevre), OAU Secretary General Edem Kodjo expressed statisfaction that there is already some cooperation between Arab and African countries, mainly through bodies like the Arab Bank for African Economic Development [BADEA]. Mr Kodjo assesses the results of the Tunis meeting:

[Begin Kodjo recording] Since the meeting of the Permanent Commission is being held at a particularly critical historical period, many topics were discussed, and measures were adopted to fight at two levels. At one level, the aim is to end colonization still existing on the African Continent and in the Middle East. In this regard, there were long, interesting, and profound debates, and concrete proposals were made to find solutions to the Middle East, Namibian, and South African problems. We are aware that the permanent Arab-African Cooperation Commission cannot impose these measures by itself. However, it is still a necessary stage, it is still another milestone, and one that is extremely important.

We did not lose sight of the importance of economic development because what is important in the world today is to be strong. When you are economically strong, you can impose your views at the diplomatic level. That is why in the economic and financial fields, Arab-African cooperation is commendable.

We heard with interest the report submitted by the BADEA. The total figures show the effectiveness of this cooperation, despite statements made by those who say that this cooperation does not respond to the needs of some African or Arab countries. On the contrary, this cooperation is in financial terms seven times higher than the one between the same African countries and some countries in the north. Since 1974, the cooperation accounts for more than $8 billion. Whether this cooperation is in the form of bilateral donations or loans, or is through multilateral bodies like the BADEA, it does not change the facts. The figures speak for themselves and cannot be questioned.

Personally, I think we have to advance step by step, as your prime minister said. However, I am among those who strongly support the idea of creating a permanent structure for Arab-African cooperation, not to replace what is already in existence but to outline new ways and new orientations and to give a bigger incentive to this cooperation, making this horizontal South-South cooperation a model of its kind.

I am personally satisfied with the results. There is still some work to do. We still have to make efforts to know and respect each other. To do this, we still have to make a lot of effort to establish permanent contacts between African and Arab countries.

We have a lot of work to do at the cultural level. As we have observed, in my opinion, all this can only be done through effective and real cooperation. [end recording]

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI SPEECH AT JAMAL 'ABD AN-NASIR AIRBASE

LD281327 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Speech by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir Airbase -- live]

[Exceprts] Free brothers: Our honorable guests and we (?are pleased) with the great air display by symbolic formations of the Air Force at the Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir Airbase. The air display has proved the great capability of the Libyan Arab airmen.

Until recently this airbase used to be a British airbase occupied by the British Air Force under the flag of the Libyan kingdom. It used to house the permanent residence of Idriss as-Sanusi, agent of Britain and the United States and servant of the Italians, who was historically [passage indistinct].

The British forces used to depend on this base in North Africa. The Libyan territories used to be open to the British forces at any time. The successive parliaments in Libya were unable to remove this base from Libyan territory. Successive governments and parliaments were unable to liberate this base. But this base was liberated by the revolution. After it became the Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir base it actually became an Egyptian base. When Egypt was within the Confrontation Front, the Egyptian Air Force came and positioned itself at the Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir base after the revolution. Thus, the Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir base in Tobruk became one of the bases of the Egyptian Air Force supporting Egypt and its Air Force in the battle against the Zionist enemy. [applause and shouts] This base graduated scores of Egyptian pilots who took part in the Ramadan war. Prior to the revolution this base used to be a bayonet aimed against 'Abd an-Nasir's Egypt; the base participated in the [1956] tripartite aggression against Egypt. This base used to threaten the United Arab Republic, the revolution in Egypt, and the unionist revolutionary progressive tide in Egypt. After the revolution this base became a support for the Egyptian Army and the Egyptian Air Force.

But after 'Abd an-Nasir and after the serious setback of the 23 July revolution at the hands of the buried [word indistinct] the dirty agent As-Sadat, the same pilots who graduated from this base were used (?by As-Sadat) to attack and destroy the Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir base in 1973. But, as we have previously said, the hatred has been destroyed. The Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir base remained lofty and strong. The As-Sadat aircraft were destroyed and disintegrated in the skies over the base. Afterward As-Sadat himself came to an end at the hands of the forces of the Egyptian people, who carried out the sentence passed by the Arab people's court which condemned him for high treason and sentenced him to death by firing squad. This is what happened.

On the day when As-Sadat was killed -- As-Sadat who poured all his anger and rancor on this Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir base -- we said that this base is strong and a giant whereas As-Sadat ended in the dustbin of history. On that day we said that this fate awaits any new As-Sadat who proceeds on the path of treason in Egypt or elsewhere; whoever does this will definitely meet the same fate as that of As-Sadat. We also said, brothers, that As-Sadat [words indistinct] the treaty of treason. He (?allied) himself with the enemies in the betrayal of the Arab nation and Islam and Egypt. We say today that As-Sadat's fate awaits anyone who proceeds along the path of As-Sadat -- the path of stable David. Brothers, this is a prelude, which I would like to say at the beginning about the great Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir's base.

Brothers, today at the Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir base to salute the 13th anniversary of the evacuation of the British forces -- after the revolution and thanks to the revolution -- from the base, the Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir base, a delegation of the Iranian Islamic Revolution is sharing with you in this celebration. [applause] Brothers we have to salute our brothers, the sons of the Iranian Islamic Revolution. [shouts and applause]

Brothers, you can hear the shouts of "God is great" of the popular Iranian revolution delegation. The delegation carries greetings to you from your friends, the Muslim people of Iran, and from Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the Iranian Islamic Revolution. We greet both the civilian and the military delegations of the Iranian Islamic Revolution, which represent all sections of the fraternal people of Iran's Islamic Revolution, and we declare, brothers, on this occasion our unlimited support to the Islamic Revolution in Iran, to Imam Khomeyni, and to the Iranian Muslim people. We greet the revolutionaries of Iran, who inflicted the heaviest losses on American imperialism when the Muslim people of Iran destroyed the tyrant shah and the agent's crown and deprived American imperialism of its biggest base in the Near East, Iran, and shifted the weight of the Muslim Iranian nation to the side of the sister nation -- the Arab Muslim nation -- and to the side of the Palestine issue and the liberation of Jerusalem.

We, brothers, express praise and gratitude for the favor the revolutionaries of Iran have added to the struggle and the jihad of the Arab nation and to the struggle of the Palestinian people against Zionism and imperialism. They added to it the strength of the great Iranian nation, the strength of Islam in Iran, the strength of revolution in Iran. The material and spiritual strength in Iran was added, by virtue of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, to the struggle of the Arab nation and to its jihad against Zionism, imperialism, and reaction in the Arab region and the Near and Middle East regions; hence brothers, the unwavering and open stand of the Al-Fatih Revolution by the side of the Islamic Revolution in Iran.

We deem it a betrayal of Islam and of the Arab nation that war is waged against the Islamic Revolution in Iran. To stand in the face of the Islamic Revolution in Iran is to stand in the interest of Zionism and U.S. imperialism.

Brothers, your brothers, the members of the Iranian Islamic Revolution delegation, are now shouting the slogan "death to America." The triumph of the Iranian nation, the triumph of the revolution in Libya, and the revolution that is coming in support of the Islamic Revolution in Iran and the Great Al-Fatih Revolution, the revolution that is coming in our Arab and Muslim world, truly mean death to America.

Brothers, free brothers, death to the United States because the United States is not eternal; the United States did not want to lose its major base in Iran; it did not want to lose its area of influence in the Near East on which it depended, which was Iran. But Iran has been liberated by the revolution despite the United States. The United States was unable to prevent the Iranian people from liberating their land. [shouts] The words "God is great" are voiced in Iran despite the United States. [shouts] The United States, brothers, is repeating its experiments of failure which brought nothing to the American people except defeat and losses. The United States is still threatening Libya, and once more it is dreaming of once again dominating North Africa. But this time there is nobody who can possibly sign with it a treaty of humiliation and treason; there is no president such as the entombed As-Sadat who can submit to the United States and sell his country to it.

In Libya there is a new situation; there is a free people in Libya who are in control of their destinies by way of the people's conferences and committees, and who depend on the revolutionary committees who move and incite this people to build the new Jamahiri society.

The people depend on the revolutionary committees which herald the era of the masses, the era of the liberation of the wide masses from all forms of pressures and controls, and who will ultimately settle the battle in the interest of the masses. [shouts] The United States, the more the world progresses, the more it goes backward; and the more the world becomes civilized, the more it becomes barbaric. Thus, at the end of the 20th century, the United States, the world's superpower, is under the leadership of a failing actor who believes that acting at the international level is the same as acting on the comedy stage on which the new U.S. president used to work.

Whenever the world goes forward, the United States goes backward; whenever the world become civilized, the United States becomes more savage and barbaric. The United States does not absorb the new realities; it does not learn its lesson. It failed to heed a lesson from the fall of Haile Selassie and the liberation of Ethiopia, and the transformation of the latter into a socialist republic, despite the United States. It failed to heed a lesson from the fall of its agents in Southeast Asia, Kao Ky, Lon Nol, one after another under the feet of the masses in Vietnam and Cambodia. The United States was unable to save these agents from the march of the masses, who marched to settle a score with the agents of the United States. The United States did not heed a lesson from the fall of its agent, the shah, under the feet of the unarmed Iranian people. The United States was unable to heed the lesson gained from the fall of the regime of Idriss as-Sanusi, who presented Libya on a silver platter so that the United States and others could establish bases on the pure Libyan soil without taking into consideration the Libyan Arab people. The United States is rowing against the current; it is trying to turn back the wheel of history. But that is impossible.

It is now conducting maneuvers in the Carribean Sea, with the participation of three aircraft carriers, in order to threaten Grenada, whose inhabitants number 100,000 free citizens who want to occupy their own place on earth, under the sun, despite America, its strength, and its high-handedness. The people of Grenada, who number 100,000, were created by God in the vicinity of America. But they do have a place, No matter how small they may be, under the sun and on earth.

These maneuvers also threaten the people of Nicaragua who have triumphed over the Somoza dictatorship and his fascism, and over his complete subservience to the United States. America wants to restore Nicaragua to its orbit, and to bring Grenada back under American influence. Today it is conducting maneuvers with the largest U.S. fleets in the Carribean Sea in order (?to intimidate) these very small states. Neither Nicaragua, nor Grenada, nor Suriname, nor Cuba did anything wrong except to decide to live on earth, free, just like other states, regardless of the number of their inhabitants.

America wants to challenge nature, to challenge the will of God, to challenge the will of peoples. Today it seeks to dominate the people of Grenada, the people of Nicaragua, the people of Cuba, the people of Suriname; it wants to bring them back under American domination. It wants to prevent the outbreak of revolution in Latin America. But [words indistinct] the fate of American policy, a blind policy, suffering from the folly of power and, at the same time, belittling the will of peoples who make history and disregarding God's determinism [sunan allah fi khalqih].

We challenge America and we are preparing to fight America with all that we have. If America wants to reoccupy this land then it will occupy it without a people. When this people is annihilated then America can succeed. [chanting of slogan]

Yes, death to America. In self-defense, brothers, in self-defense we cannot today but announce our position, materially and morally, on the side of the people of Nicaragua, with the people of Grenada, with the peoples of Cuba and Suriname, in the face of the savage threat posed by blind American force, the arrogant, high-handed force that will be smashed against the rock of peoples' resistance. [chanting of slogans]

Brothers, today we announce our full support for Nicaragua, and we announce this on the air so that America and the world may hear, that all our forces are at the disposal of the Sandinista Front in Nicaragua in the face of the blind American military threat. [chanting of slogans]

At the same time, three units of the American fleet are taking part in another maneuver, together with over 70,000 troops, in South Korea, to threaten North Korea. Why? Because North Korea has refused to surrender to American imperialism and decided to live free on earth and under the sun.

Therefore, we tell America and the world, too, that the people's congresses in Libya have decided on a mutual defense pact with North Korea. Since we know that North Korea is prepared at any time to fight side by side with us, with its people, and popular armed forces, likewise, we, in accordance with the mutual defense pact with North Korea, are prepared to fight with Korea -- North Korea -- against the blind military threat it is facing today from America which is, as I have told you, conducting another maneuver in South Korea in order to threaten the independence of North Korea, using 70,000 American troops and three American naval units -- maneuvers being conducted off the shores of North Korea.

When we declare our support for the peoples, brothers, this is not volunteering; this is self-defense. These are principles because these peoples will fight on our side. Some of these peoples have declared their full support for the Libyan Arab people every time they are exposed to the U.S. military threat in the Gulf of Sidra.

Free brothers, present with you here to celebrate the anniversary of the withdrawal of the British Air Force from Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir airbase is a delegation from Zimbabwe [applause]. This delegation brings to you the support of and greetings from the heroic people of Zimbabwe, who fought a bitter struggle for independence and freedom.

Israel, just as Rhodesia once was, is a colonialist state. Zimbabwe is like Palestine. Just as racialism totally collapsed in Zimbabwe -- and with it, the name Rhodesia came to an end forever -- so will racism in Palestine come to an end and with it the name Israel.

We greet the delegations of the fraternal and the revolutionary countries. We greet the ambassadors of the fraternal Arab countries and the foreign countries who have come from Tripoli to the Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir base to participate with you in greeting the 13th anniversary of the British Air Force evacuation from this base.

Brothers, for this reason we raise our voices. You consider the evacuation as a basic prerequisite to complement freedom. However, most regrettably, at the time when the cries for evacuation were rising over the Libyan soil, stressing that the day of evacuation is the day of freedom, the evacuation is a national cry, we see, brothers, other Arab areas where the columns of new colonialism as well as the old and ugly colonialism are advancing to establish bases on them. After the peoples such as the people of Egypt and of Sudan celebrated independence, revolution, liberation, and evacuation, we find them today doing nothing of the sort.

Rather, talk is rife now in Egypt and Sudan about the establishment of American bases on Arab Egyptian land and Arab Sudanese land, about how the Rapid Deployment Force should be deployed to occupy the Arab homeland anew through Egypt and Sudan, and about how the American military force could penetrate through Egypt and Sudan inside the Arab homeland and the Middle East to protect the Zionist entity in Palestine.

This is what is happening near our borders, brothers. We know that there are Egyptian brother soldiers only a few km from this base, living in the open, under the sun, and in a very bad conditions. The deceased As-Sadat had thrown them on an illusory front, which is not the correct front for the Egyptian Army, to confront the Libyan people and to confront the Libyan Army. But on that day the Libyan soldiers, the Arab Libyans, and the Arab Egyptians, met at the borders congratulating one another on the anniversary of the withdrawal from Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir base. Brothers, the Egyptian soldier has no problem with Libya. He knows that Libya is not the real enemy of the Egyptian Army. The Egyptian soldier is aware of the fact that the Libyan soldier is his brother, his [word indistinct] and his arm. The Egyptian Army and people know that Libya is a strategic element and that it is their rear support.

But the Israeli and the American policy which is imposed on Egypt today is making the Egyptian Army confront the Libyan people without justification, and is deploying the Egyptian Army in the open desert far away from the real front of the Egyptian Army and from the real confrontation of all Egypt: confronting the Zionist enemy in occupied Palestine; the enemy which wants to occupy Egypt one day and to divert the life in the Nile to the Negev desert.

The Israelis are historical enemies of the Egyptians. Their enmity toward the Egyptians is far greater than their enmity toward any other Arab country or any other Arab people. The Israelis are the traditional, historical and real enemies of the Egyptian people. They are seeking to settle an old score with Egypt -- an old revenge. This is recorded in their Book of Exodus. Finally, they will return to Egypt by force.

But now they are deceiving Egypt by signing a peace treaty with the Egyptians in order to free the Israeli forces and transfer them to the northern front to destroy the Arab Islamic force on the northern front consisting of the Palestinian resistance, the Lebanese resistance, Syria and now the Iranian Islamic force which has been added to this front -- the Iranian Islamic force which the Israelis greatly fear. When the Israelis manage to defeat the Arab and Islamic military force on the northern front, they will definitely turn on Egypt to occupy it militarily, and divide it into mini-states and to take the water of the Nile despite the Egyptians. This is the policy which the Egyptian regime followed to date. How dangerous this policy is to the future of the Egyptian people and that of the Arab nation.

If there are suppression and terror in Egypt and fascism such as that in El Salvador or such people as the fascist Somoza, Batista, and Lon Nol -- if the Egyptian people are unable to hear these fearful facts from inside Egypt -- if there are suppression and terror in Egypt, then the people of Egypt should hear about this from the Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir base near the Egptian border; they should hear these facts from here. We are standing here under the hot sun, but I would like to tell you that these words are not meant for you; they are meant for the Egyptian people who can follow my speech now. The Egyptian Army along the border can hear me. They can see on television too while it is in the trenches and inside the mud huts and cattle pens in which the Egyptian peasant and workers live. The Egyptian people can now hear me although they are not here with you in this sun-drenched square.

Brothers, we want to address ourselves to the Egyptian people, we want to tell them that the policy which was imposed by As-Sadat and which is still being pursued by the current Egyptian Government is a policy which constitutes a danger to the future of Egypt. It will make it lose the Nile, lose life, and the future too. It will lead Egypt to its death. Egypt has fallen for a big trick. Its Army was pulled out of Sinai, away from the real confrontation, and was placed in the western desert. We would like to declare that we have no forces along the western Egyptian border. Since the killing of As-Sadat -- the implementation of the death sentence against him -- we withdrew our land forces from this front. Now there are only control points and points to combat smuggling along the border. There are symbolic units. There is the Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir base standing lofty, like the lofty stand which 'Abd an-Nasir took in history, despite As-Sadat, despite the United States, and despite the Israelis and the reactionaries. [shouting of slogans] You have seen how the Libyan Air Force appeared within seconds over [words indistinct] in formations of various types of fighters and bombers. This means that the Libyan Air Force is capable of being quickly present over [words indistinct].

We expect Egypt to realize these fearful facts which constitute a danger to its future and to know that its correct position is to return to the confrontation against the Israelis and to muster its capabilities in order to eliminate the Zionist entity.

We must say that even if the Palestinians recognize what is called Israel and the Israelis recognize what is called the PLO, we Arabs will never recognize the existence of an aggressive and racist state which is armed with the most modern arms behind which stands the U.S. arsenal, which is determined to achieve the physical liquidation of the Arab existence. Under no circumstance will we commit a crime in the history of the Arab nation and recognize the existence of a poisoned dagger in the body or heart of the Arab homeland. How can we recognize the existence of Israel and recognize its right to exist when it is a poisoned dagger deep in our body? What a crime the recognition of Israel is. What a crime As-Sadat committed when he recognized the existence of what is called Israel.

But after all this time, it has become clear that As-Sadat is not dead. As-Sadat is still alive in Egypt; Egypt is still in the stable of [Camp] David. It did not manage to get out of it even after the death of As-Sadat. As-Sadat's policy was a policy of capitulation and surrender. Egypt is continuing to follow the same policy, a policy of capitulation and surrender and a policy of accepting a fait accompli. But according to my analysis, even As-Sadat was defeated and capitulation was imposed on him. Consequently, what is taking place in Egypt is the result of a war in which Egypt was defeated militarily. Consequently, the conditions of stable David were imposed on it.

But, brothers, what is making 20 million people in Sudan capitulate just as the defeated and buried As-Sadat capitulated? What is making 150 million Arabs capitulate just as As-Sadat did? Those traitors, the rulers of the Arab nation, what justification have they to agree to capitulation and to recognize Israel in Fes? Have they fought? Has Sudan fought? Sudan is now, by order of the United States, fighting the Islamic Revolution of Iran.

[Shouts of "Death to Numayri"] Yes, death to Numayri. [more shouts of "Death to Numayri" and prolonged applause] Now he is fighting on orders from his American masters. This lackey -- in actual fact it is a waste of time to talk about lackey Numayri or his regime. We should have talked to his masters, and (?not) talk to him directly. In fact, we ourselves regrettably restored him to authority and aborted the coup of Hashim al-Ata -- a coup which today we admit was a progressive coup. We must admit that the 25 May coup was a revolution, a progressive unionist revolution; we fought with Numayri and caused the failure of the progressive coup of Hashim al-Ata. We declare our regret now. We restored Numayri to power. But he is a lackey; he is vile. How can he [words indistinct] all att mpts between us and Sudan, including the restoration of Numayri to power -- we restored him to power and the whole world knows this -- were to no avail. Now we have decided to deal with his masters, and consequently follow what his masters say. We will deal with the beast, whose tail is Numayri, because the tail follows the beast.

[Words indistinct] but among the mockeries of Arab history in the modern era is the fact that a regime such as Numayri's can shackle the will of 20 million Arabs in Sudan. All that can be said about this regime is that it is a brand of shame in the history of the Arab nation in the 20th century. The will of 20 million Arabs in Sudan is being falsified by this regime and shackled by this regime. These Sudanese people do not recognize Israel. The Sudanese people do not accept fighting against the Islamic Revolution in Iran. The regime of the lackey Numayri, which is subservient to the United States and Egypt, is issuing orders to fight against the Muslim brothers in Iran. This regime is falsifying the will of the Sudanese people. We have no choice regarding this situation in Sudan except to continue to incite revolution. We declare our support for the Sudanese revolutionary councils which are facing fascist trials in all parts of Sudan. The world is talking about these fascist kangaroo courts that track down members of Sudanese revolutionary committees and make allegations against Libya. This is a humiliation to the Sudanese people! The Sudanese people who wanted to set up revolutionary committees to establish popular power for the Sudanese people are accused of being agents. Then, what should Numayri be accused of? Of honor? Of being a free man? This agent -- this total servant to U.S. imperialism and Zionism, to his masters the Egyptians, the Egyptian rulers who receive orders from America -- this agent accuses the Sudanese people of being an agent! [anti-Numayri slogans]

Brothers, the United States wants to protect its new base, Sudan, and it thus threatens you with its 6th Fleet in the Gulf of Sidra. But on the day of the declaration of the Jamahiriyah and the establishment of the power of the people we announced that these American threats can only add to our determination and defiance. Now we constitute a stronger alliance with the Sudanese people, for as long as America, with all its power, publicly states that it will protect the Sudanese regime that is against the Sudanese people, then we publicly announce our alliance with the Sudanese people in their struggle against the American agent regime in Sudan. [applause, anti-Numayri slogans]

Virtually every day this agent boasts and litters funny statements published by the Egyptian gutter press financed by U.S. intelligence. Virtually every day these papers publish a photograph of the new Abbud [reference to former Sudanese Prime Minister Ibrahim Abbud], who boldly and shamelessly reports his arrest of revolutionary committees, how many revolutionary committees he has arrested, and how many revolutionary committees he has put on trial -- those Sudanese who are the agents of Al-Qadhdhafi, as he boasts; those Sudanese who are agents of Libya. He talks about the Libyan invasion.

The whole world laughs at a person who is being daily misled by the Egyptians. They laugh at him. They give him the pages of the magazine of AKHIR SA'AH of his life and their lives. [laughter] He boasts and they mislead him. How many revolutionary committees I have arrested, he says. How many revolutionary committees I have put on trial, he says. The Libyan invasion and how I was subjected to it, he says. The Libyan invasion -- he has no subject other than the imaginary Libyan invasion to talk about day or night. If one feels no shame one can say what he wants to say. You dispatch patrols to the bridges of Khartoum and deploy forces at the entry points of Khartoum, the radio station, and your own house out of your fear of the Libyan invasion. [words indistinct] Is there anyone who can believe him?

Will the Libyan invasion take place along the border, or against your house, or the radio station, or the bridges over the Nile, or against Omdurman? This is a revolution from inside Sudan. This means that you are afraid of the Sudanese Army and people. This means that there is a revolution inside Khartoum and inside Sudan. If there is a Libyan invasion then you should move your forces to the Libyan border. But to occupy places in Khartoum and to tell the people that there is a Libyan invasion. [sentence as heard] We can reply [words indistinct] before the world and [word indistinct] all the Egyptian gutter press to which his lackey gives statements. But, at any rate, despite his vileness [word indistinct] the revolution is against you.

If the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force is designed to intervene on the side of governments that are hostile to their own peoples, we declared when our forces returned from Chad that the Libyan rapid deployment forces which were set up from the division which was in Chad are ready to intervene on the side of the peoples against the governments which are hostile to these peoples. This is a historic battle in which we will engage against the United States. [shouts] To hell with the United States!

However, free brothers, the United States has done much harm to its agents. The U.S. agents in the Arab region will meet the same end of U.S. agents in the rest of the world. The United States now wants to protect the regime in Sudan, but in fact it has done great harm to the regime in Sudan and will inevitably hasten its downfall. This is because any regime which the United States claims to protect goes on to the blacklist of the masses and the revolutionary forces in the world. Numayri now is top filthy agent in the world. If we had a global referendum the people would say he is an agent. Why? Because the United States has declared that it will protect this regime. So the United States will bring about the downfall of Numayri's regime by declaring that it will protect it.

We can now bring to the United States the good news of the approaching end of its agents whom it has declared it protects. As soon as it declared that the U.S. 6th Fleet is in the Mediterranean to threaten Libya and to protect the regimes in Sudan and Egypt, this meant that the end of the regimes in Egypt and Sudan is inevitably near.

Brothers, we used to believe that the regime in Egypt had learned its lesson from the liquidation of As-Sadat. We gave it a chance. Truthfully, we did not harass the regime after As-Sadat. We even neglected the Egyptian opposition somehow, for it asked much from us and we gave little, because we wanted to give a chance to the regime which succeeded As-Sadat. But yesterday the situation became clear. The United States either wanted to engage the Egyptian regime or that the Egyptian regime [words indistinct] as soon as there was a storm the Egyptian regime was uncovered.

The United States officially informed the world and informed us that the Egyptian president asked it on 17 February to withdraw the U.S. 6th Fleet from Beirut, from the waters of Lebanon, and bring it quickly to threaten Banghazi.

We asked: Why? He said: Because there is a danger from Libya. We were surprised by the U.S. 6th Fleet threatening Banghazi. We had prepared for war. When the United States carries out aggression against us, it thinks that we are incapable. We decided to die. Responsibility falls on the United States for playing with fire. We prepared for war on the 17th, when the U.S. fleet suddenly began to threaten Banghazi without Libya's making any military move.

When we enquired, the Americans said that the Egyptian president had asked them to come. When an enquiry was made to the Egyptians, [words indistinct] the U.S. threat against Libya, they said they had not asked for any such thing.

We were surprised by the movement of the U.S. fleet toward Libya. Where is the truth? Up to this time we do not know the truth. Either the United States wants to distract the Egyptian regime and get it involved in this manner and expose it, or the Egyptian regime actually made this request. If the Egyptian regime did indeed make this request, on the basis of mere rumor, of a mere movement inside Libya, or of the mere movement of a unit from one place to another, so that the U.S. 6th Fleet would maneuver, and if it requested U.S. nuclear bombs and U.S. strategic AWACS spy planes, this means that this regime has gone down a very dangerous and slippery road.

Here at the Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir base I warn the Egyptian regime that if it pursues this policy then it is going down a very slippery and dangerous road. If there is any tension in this area that calls for a foreign superpower to intervene, then this is a dangerous game which will (?harm) the Egyptian regime, and the foreign powers, or perhaps the world. This is a dangerous game. The Egyptian regime should shoulder its responsibilities itself or declare Egypt an American state. In that case Egypt will never be free at all; it will never be an independent state.

He who acts in this manner is not a president. Even the traitor As-Sadat used to represent at least a modicum of the pride of Egyptian nationalism. At least he fought alone and asked for U.S. help as a last resort, at the end of the battle. As for this one, before entering battle, he wants the United States to fight ahead of him. He wanted the United States to fight Libya before he himself entered the battle, which in the final analysis is an imaginary battle; it is a totally imaginary battle.

There are no hostilities between Libya and Sudan, or between Libya and Egypt. We were completely surprised by this parade, this military demonstration in the Mediterranean, by the quick entry of the American AWACS planes into Egypt and subsequently to near Al-Kufrah to spy on Libyan territory.

We warn the Egyptian regime: If it plays with fire, it will get burned. By entering Egypt to spy on Libya the AWACS planes become a hostile target, and Libya, with the right to self-defense, is entitled to deal with such a target.

When the American 6th Fleet comes to this region to threaten Libya a state of war prevails and Libya then has the right to take all defensive measures, by force. In such a case diplomacy is set aside, with all other means, and force becomes the arbitrator. We renounce all those who resort to force for arbitration in the 20th century. In a world that we thought was becoming civilized we see superpowers like America which are moving backward. The more the world becomes civilized and advanced the more savage and more barbaric America becomes.

It is most regrettable that the language between nations is the language of blockade, fleets, war threats, physical liquidation, assassination of [word indistinct], and assassination of individuals. America is dreaming about the days of piracy, the Jeffersonian era, the [name indistinct] era. It believes that the world is still the same as it was during the Karamanli [18th century Turkish military figure] era. We say to America: Good morning! There is an American program called Good Morning America. It would be better for them to say: Good Awakening America! America is sleeping; it imagines that in Libya there is an Ahmed Pasha Karamanli; it imagines that someone like Karamanli is there. It lives with an 18th century mentality.

All the world leaders I have met have said they are very alarmed and concerned so long as Reagan is in power in America because peace is in danger and the world is in danger because it is obvious that the comic acting in the American Hollywood motion picture is the same as that being practiced now on the international stage by this actor. This is important; it is important when acting interferes with serious matters, when Hollywood acting becomes acting on the international scene, when international matters -- international politics -- are treated as in Hollywood motion pictures, with the same mentality, by the same person. It is not only I who says this: The world leaders say it.

All the peoples are now united against America. What increases our strength in facing up to America and backs us in confronting America is the fact, brothers, that the peoples of the earth, all of them, are becoming united against America, in a worldwide front.

Today all the peoples hate America. We are not the only ones to hate American policies, and we are not the only ones to be threatened by the American barbaric power.

All the free peoples of the world are facing the same fate that the Libyan people are facing: threat by force, threat by fleets. As the U.S. 6th Fleet threatens Libya, so other aircraft carriers are threatening the Carribean Sea. There are also groups of ships threatening North Korea and China, too. Other forces, from the 7th Fleet, threaten the Indian Ocean and small countries such as Mauritius, Madagascar, the Comoros, the Seychelles, and the Maldives -- all these peoples are threatened by the U.S. 7th Fleet in the Indian Ocean. All these peoples are therefore united with us. All these new American imperialist expansions are bound to strengthen and broaden the anti-American front, and to bolster the front that fights together with us. When we fight America, brothers, many other peoples will fight together with us. Many peoples are threatened by America just as we are threatened by it.

Finally let me say in this regard: The Egyptian regime is still at a crossroads and we will give it a final chance -- to prove either that it is a nationalist regime and adopts the Arab policy of confronting the real enemy that is threatening the Arab nation -- Israel -- or that it is trying to gain time to strike against the Egyptian people and pose a threat to the Arab nation's future.

It is feared is that one day this regime will prove to be a fascist regime such as the fascist regimes of Batista, Somoza, and El Salvador. It is feared that Egypt will become a fascist state governed by the traditional fascist military, the classical generals, who know nothing about democracy and who know nothing other than the policy of force and steel and fire for shackling the masses. They muster nothing other than the policy of suppression, particularly as these armies are defeated armies, and consequently they recoil on the masses. I had previously confirmed this at the conference of the pan-Arab opposition.

The Egyptian Army is a defeated Army; it was defeated in war against the enemy. Its duty is to erase the disgrace of defeat by fire. It must turn itself into a volcano and break its shackles and close down Ra's Banas, that American base on the Red Sea that threatens the Arab countries, and proceed to Sinai and enter into war with the Israeli army for the liberation of Palestine and the erasing of the disgrace of defeat. This Army was defeated several times before the Israelis; for this reason it will avenge itself against the Egyptian people. When the fascist military who suffered defeats in battles seize authority they turn into beasts, acting against the popular masses.

Freedom in Egypt itself is in danger. But so far, in the face of [word indistinct], the Egyptian regime maintains the Caliph Mu'awiyah's policy of maintaining relations with other countries, no matter how tenuous. If this regime pursues a line similar to that of the As-Sadat regime, it will be put on the blacklist, and there will be no meeting with it. This is because As-Sadat's line was one of squandering, of treason, and danger to the future of the Arab nation and of bolstering the Zionist entity in the Arab nations.

We lay in wait for anyone who enters into dialogue with the Egyptian regime which, in my opinion, is like the stable David. We will face up strongly to all attempts to squander the rights of the Arab nation -- attempts that are now being made to swallow up the Egyptian regime through the stable David process. The Egyptian regime has swallowed the hook.

In view of this, the revolutionary force throughout the Arab homeland is called upon to be watchful for every ruler, every individual, and every regime -- even down to a journalist or a man with capital who wants to invest his private capital in Egypt. We must be alert to all these, and they must be destroyed if they attempt to take any action that would bring about a meeting with the Egyptian regime while it is still under the traitorous umbrella of the stable David and pursuing a course leading to the ruination of the Arab nation, while working to consolidate the ground before an aggressor that is armed with the most sophisticated weapons and possessing nuclear missiles at the Dimona reactor; the Israelis have stated that they possess 200 nuclear missiles at the Dimona reactor.

If one Arab country had one nuclear warhead, the United States would move to occupy it and deprive it of this weapon. But why doesn't the world and the United States move now to close down the Dimona reactor? Why is it that the coward Arabs, the traitorous kings and presidents, do not move to destroy the Dimona reactor as the Israelis have moved and destroyed the atomic reactor near Baghdad? They destroyed it in spite of the coward Arabs and despite the fact that the Baghdad reactor did not produce any atomic bombs but is intended only for peaceful purposes and is internationally supervised as Iraq is a signatory to the treaty of nonproliferation of atomic weapons. The israeli atomic reactor, on the other hand, is not governed by any international supervision and the Israelis are not signatories to the treaty on nonproliferation of atomic weapons.

Why doesn't a squadron of Arab aircraft move to destroy that reactor? Haven't we announced our intention to do this on several occasions? Have we not asked the Arabs to test their military might by destroying that reactor? Otherwise the Dimona reactor will destroy us [phrase repeated several times by Al-Qadhdhafi], through the hands of the Israelis. During the battle of Beirut and the occupation of Lebanon the Arabs have suffered bitter humilitation before the world -- they could not reply to the Baghdad blow, and could not reply to other blows.

It is still necessary for the Arabs who now brag about Islam and about Arabism and patriotism and believe that there is still a justification for their continued stay in power, to send out squadrons of aircraft and divisions of troops to Syria to fight alongside Syria.

War is about to break out with Syria. Let these armies move and set up camps in Syria at least for the sake of defending Syria. If Syria were to collapse, the Israeli statesmen believe, the whole of the Arab East would collapse and, in turn, North Africa would be next. If Syria were to collapse, only the Islamic Revolution in Iran will confront the Israelis. It is the only one that can face up to them.

Neither Saddam Husayn nor Jordan will face up to them. The statelets of the Arabian Peninsula cannot last even 1 hour before the Israeli advance, once America gives the green light to advance in this region. Why? Why don't the Arabs mobilize their forces from Morocco, through Sudan, all the way to the Arabian Peninsula to go to the aid of Syria?

We are prepared to join such an action. We have said this repeatedly. We are prepared to send our troops and to shoulder our responsibility. We challenge the Arab rulers: He who is not a coward should proceed to the battle. He who is not a coward, should declare this. He who is not a traitor should declare this. But we know that they are cowards, traitors, and agents. And consequently, we do not expect any response for our call in the coming days. [indistinct chants]

Brothers, I see before me this huge group of students; this is in addition to the Armed Forces belonging to and protecting the Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir base. We are at the threshold of yet another anniversary, when the revolution was escalated in Libya until the people's authority was established. We are approaching another anniversary 1 week later, the famous 7 April students revolution.

First, as from 7 April self-management will begin in all educational institutions. [applause] The self-administration and self-management of educational institutions is but one stage in increasing the people's authority -- a stage in the development of the Jamahiriyah society on the road to full self-management to a society where the masses carry out all the tasks and in which the masses do away with all government and official machinery. Self-management begins at educational institutions on 7 April. This is a step on the road to comprehensive self-management of the Jamahiriyah; self-management will take place in all educational institutions.

The coming 7 April celebrations will mean not only sports competitions, slogans and songs; they must also include tangible action underlining the people's authority. After that the people's congresses must be held at the educational institutions of the universities to complete the people's control by the masses of the students and tutors over these popular institutions, particularly at the universities. People's congresses will be held at these institutions in order to draw up new people's draft laws, new grades, new laws, new curricula and new working programs to be completely in line with the Jamahiriyah society which is self-managed.

You masses of workers, peasants, officials, teachers, agronomists, and engineers who are here at this square, and you others who are not here, it is inevitable that the people's general vocational conference -- the students' General Congress, and so forth -- should march on the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison of the Jamahiriyah, which is the link between the Jamahiriyah and the world, and set up people's committees from the general people's vocational conferences; secretaries of these vocational conferences should form a general people's committee for the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison so that all sectors of the people will participate in the running of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison; that will implement the resolutions of the people's conferences regarding the Jamahiriyah's relations with the international community. I say this, brothers, on this occasion particularly, as there are no conferences before 7 April. I think you have been very patient under the burning sun in this square.

In conclusion I would like to tell you the glad tidings of what took place today before I came to this rostrum -- the signing of an agreement between Libya and Algeria. Algeria asked for this agreement, which is regarded as a (?very important) step along the path of the implementation of the Hassi Messaoud [town in Algeria] Charter; on 2 March we asked Algeria to implement with Libya the Hassi Messaoud Charter which calls for the merger of our two countries.

Yesterday Major 'Abd as-Salam [Jallud] visited Algeria and met with Brother Chadli Bendjedid; a step has taken place which can be regarded as a pleasing and an important step as far as the unionist inclinations of Algeria are concerned. In this agreement Algeria has declared its intention to proceed without hesitation along the path of unity with Libya and the implementation of the Hassi Messaoud Charter. [shouts and applause]

Report on Air Show

NC281302 [Editorial Report] Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic at 0900 GMT on 28 March was intercepted carrying a live relay of an air show at the Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir Airbase on the occasion of the 13th anniversary of the evacuation of the British forces from Libya. The announcer reports that Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is present at the event.

The air show begins at 0905 GMT. According to the announcer, squadrons of Mirage-5 and MIG-21, -23, and -25 fighter planes fly over in various formations. The announcer mentions that an Iranian Shura Council delegation, two Iranian military delegations, the Zimbabwe defense minister, and members of the diplomatic corps in Libya are watching the display. The announcer says: "We are the only free people in the world these days but other people, brother citizens, will follow us. We are the pioneers. We are the pioneers of this age, the age of the masses." He adds: We find that those around us receive the invaders and "rush to the American black house [as heard] to beg solutions" because they do not believe in their Arabism. He further says: We will resist them with the masses. "Those around us who row in the mirage of illusion will inevitably fall."

The announcer then heaps praise on the Libyan Air Force amid cheers and slogans shouted by the crowd and observes that the sky is covered with "dozens" of aircraft flying in various formations. He goes on to say: "The MIG-21 formations pass again greeting the leader of the revolution and the guests of the Jamahiriyah people. This display of our aircraft and air formations continues. These are the planes which intercepted [tasaddat] the nuclear aircraft carrier Nimitz and intercepted the U.S. 6th Fleet."

The announcer continues saying: "What will those who receive the AWACS aircraft in their skies say at these moments when they see the Libyan Arab People's aircraft carrying out a display over the Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir base? What will they say to themselves and to their people and how will they justify this? The Libyan Arab people celebrate the removal of the foreign bases from their soil and display their planes in the sky over their land while they celebrate receiving the AWACS -- the colonialist, foreign, and aggressive planes."

The announcer then challenges "the agent regimes around us to hand over power and wealth to the people. However, they will not do so because they know their fate would be to be trodden under the feet of the masses. The days of those who seek the protection of foreign bases and aircraft are numbered." He continues: "Hundreds of MIG-23 planes are now staging a display in the skies over this base and the supreme commander of the Armed Forces and the commander in chief greet these magnificent formations which pass in the skies."

At 1030 GMT, he notes in conclusion that a formation of MIG-23 planes is flying over.

MOROCCO

RELATIONS WITH ALGERIA TO BE RESUMED IN APRIL

LD281656 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1613 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Rabat, 28 Mar (KUNA) -- An official Moroccan source stated here today that diplomatic relations between Morocco and Algeria will be resumed during the coming few weeks.

The source told KUNA that Moroccan-Algerian relations will return to normal this April and that among prominent Moroccan figures nominated for the post of Moroccan ambassador to Algiers are his majesty's advisers Mohamed Awwad and Ahmed Ben Soudah. High-ranking Moroccan sources said that the nomination of Ben Soudah and Awwad reflects the importance that Morocco attaches to the rebuilding of relations with Algeria. The same sources added that preparations are now underway for the convening of a Maghreb summit as a first step toward building the greater Arab Maghreb.

CONGO

SOVIET DELEGATION ENDS VISIT ON 23 MARCH

AB231356 Brazzaville Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] The visit of the Soviet solidarity committee delegation led by the foreign minister of Lithuania, Comrade Zenkyavichyus Vitautas, ends today. But before leaving our country, the leader of the delegation this morning gave a press conference at the CAP [expansion unknown] headquarters during which he indicated that the visit of the Soviet delegation falls within the framework of strengthening the friendship and solidarity between the two peoples. He hailed the Congolese people's activities under the leadership of the party in creating work for a new life in our country.

Finally, the Soviet delegation leader recalled his country's position which has always defended new states against imperialist designs. He criticized the imperialist bloc which always supports the Pretoria racist regime and seeks to stifle national liberation movements.

CHAD

GOUKOUNI BLAMES DISSENT FOR GUNT'S FALL

AB242138 Bardai Chadian National Radio (Anti-Habre) in French 1815 GMT 24 Mar 83

[Text] Talking to the victors in the recent battle against a column of the national annihilation forces [Habre's forces], the Transitional National Union Government [GUNT] president expressed the view that the division which prevailed within the GUNT and [words indistinct] led to the departure of the GUNT forces from Ndjamena. Our withdrawal was therefore essentially due to our internal dissension as well as to imperialist and reactionary maneuvers. Objectively speaking, through our internal dissension, we played into the hands of the enemy, that is imperialism and reaction. Because of the climate of political confusion, the militant determination and the revolutionary fighting spirit of many of our soldiers wore out, and this was a normal phenomenon. As is true in any war, victory does not depend only on the quantity of weapons but also on the motivation of the fighters and the behavior of the political leadership. There are lessons that any responsible person must learn from the recent events.

Moreover, although the GUNT did not have a clear political policy when it was in Ndjamena, the new realities of the Chadian conflict have now clarified the situation. Now there are two sides fighting each other. On one hand, there are the patriotic and progressive forces assembled within the GUNT and supported by all revolutionary regimes in Africa and in the rest of the world. On the other hand, there are the national reactionary forces assisted by French and American imperialism.

Now more than ever before, the salvation of the progressive forces will depend on their unity of action. Unity is now more than ever the watchword of the moment. But it will no longer be based on a compromise on certain responsibilities nor on any secret bargaining. Unity implies the effective realization of a political platform for all patriotic and revolutionary forces in the government. Better still, it implies a clear and consistent revolutionary ideology to be used as an efficient tool for the mobilization of the militant Chadian people and for meeting the imperialist and reactionary challenge. Our various forces are currently working hard to achieve this.

Comrade President Goukouni Oueddei further stated that it would be of no use to hastily besiege Ndjamena without the total fulfillment of the fundamental needs of unity and rational organization of the patriotic and revolutionary forces. Nothing can be more accurate and more unequivocal because although the GUNT forces can at any moment be deployed all over the entire national territory, they must first ensure their homogeneity which is the true guarantee for the consolidation of the achievements of the Chadian people's revolutionary struggle. When we return to Ndjamena, we will be able to address ourselves fully to the construction of a progressive and revolutionary society in order to snatch our people from misery, ignorance, and exploitation.

BARDAI COMMENTARY ON GOUKOUNI INTERVIEW

AB261154 Bardai Chadian National Radio (anti-Habre) in French 1820 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] In the interview granted by Comrade President Goukouni Oueddei to the special envoy to the Brussels daily LE SOIR, three major points deserve being underlined. Replying to a question on whether Libya's aid was with certain conditions, the head of state stated that as a revolutionary and progressive country, Libya assists a government with the same views. "So I do not see why Libya should pose conditions before helping the Chadian people," comrade president of the Transitional National Union Government [GUNT] explained.

Though the question by our Belgian counterpart may be intelligent, it however shows the lack of knowledge among Westerners on the relations among African progressive and revolutionary regimes. Between the Jamahiriyah and Chad, which share the bonds of history and geography, the relations are not only those of two peoples that have been fighting against the imperialist domination on our continent, but the two peoples are jointly engaged in the same battle to break the neocolonial chains in Africa. The Libyan revolutionary regime and other friendly countries are granting assistance without any selfish motive to revolutionaries confronted with the maneuvers of international imperialism and reactionaries.

Through their authorities and their legal government in Bardai, the martyred Chadian people are grateful to the Libyan brotherly people and to the friendly progressive countries. If there is any condition for an assistance at all, it is only the following: Objectively, Tripoli can assist a regime or a government only if it is a progressive one, which is currently the case of the GUNT. And we hold the view that in return for this, the Chadian revolutionary forces must make moves likely to inspire confidence in all friendly progressive states and not only the Jamahiriyah. The establishment of a democratic revolutionary regime in Chad can strengthen progressive regimes in Africa. That is how we must thank all those who are helping us in this critical phase of our struggle. As the saying goes, a friend in need is a friend indeed. Our friendship with all our friends will henceforth be founded on the similarity between our political objectives.

The second topic examined by the president of the GUNT was his reaction to the so-called complaint lodged by the national annihilation forces at the UN Security Council. For President Goukouni Oueddei, the move which was inspired by imperialism, is aimed at hiding the truth and the victory scored by our fighters against the evil forces at the front. Earlier,comrade president of the GUNT said this maneuver of the band [words indistinct] the Americans have for their men of straw who are falling at the war front. This interpretation of the GUNT president is quite true. In fact, is Hissien Habre presently not politically naked? Does he not clearly appear now as the faithful agent of Franco-American imperialism? Indeed, the continued close relations with reactionary, pro-American, and pro-French regimes of Sudan, Zaire, Togo, the Ivory Coast, Senegal, and Israel are a clear testimony of this.

Every one of them wants this country to be governed by traitors to the African cause; yet it is precisely these countries which support the moribund and puppet regime in Ndjamena. Moreover, every African who listens to imperialist radios such as Radio France International and the Voice of America says that these Western stations make a lot of publicity for their African valets while at the same time conducting a systematic campaign of denigration against revolutionary regimes. The renegade clique in Ndjamena is quite aware of this. In fact, an African listener, in a letter to the Radio France International, recently criticized the station for its lack of objectivity and its partiality. We shall make the same charge by saying that the so-called French Socialist government's interference in the French press has had a lot of influence on the behavior of the French press. [Passage indistinct]

For the comrade head of state, a new page has been turned as far as efforts for national unity are concerned. "In order to restore unity in the country, we should not fall into the same mistakes of the past," he emphasized. "We are going to start on a purely revolutionary path."

The objective of the GUNT is now clearly stated: We can no longer afford to waste our energy beating about the bush, as it were. The salvation of our dear Chad can only be achieved through its total commitment toward the revolutionary path and toward progress.

GABON

TALKS WITH MOROCCO; COMMUNIQUE ISSUED

AB260911 Libreville Africa No 1 in French 0600 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] The second session of the Gabonese-Morocco joint cooperation commission ended in Libreville yesterday. In the communique issued at the end of the session, Gabon and Morocco pledged to further strengthen their cooperation in the fields of trade exchange, transportation, professional training, and technical assistance.

On the political scene, the two countries reiterated their support for the Namibian people in their struggle for the independence of the territory. They also condemned the armed invasion of Angolan territory by South African forces. Finally, Gabon and Morocco wished for peace in Chad. To this end, the two countries call on the international community to come to the aid of the Chadian people in their national reconstruction efforts.

ANTI-APARTHEID CONFERENCE CONDEMNS U.S.

NC281130 Paris AFP in English 1122 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Lisbon, March 28 (AFP) -- The international conference of solidarity with the black frontline states has ended here with a condemnation of U.S. and Western support for South Africa and of Pretoria's raids into neighbouring southern African states. The conference's final statement adopted last night by the 300 delegates singled out the U.S., West Germany and Israel for their "military, nuclear, economic and political cooperation" with the apartheid regime.

The statement said that the six frontline states -- Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambabwe -- along with Lesotho were the "avant-garde of the international struggle against apartheid, racism and colonialism." The statement said it "deeply regretted" Pretoria's policy of selectively destroying the economies and non-military targets of southern African states which were attempting to end their economic dependence on South Africa. Pretoria was accused of financing and arming "groups of armed bandits" committing sabotage and murders in the frontline states and Lesotho.

The conference also discussed the Namibian situation and condemned the U.S. Administration's attempt to link Namibian independence with a withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. The statement said that linkage represented a "gross interference" in Angola's domestic affairs and was "blackmail" against the Namibian people.

The conference, which was attended by representatives of 27 governments and international agencies and by prominent personalities from 67 countries, finally called for the release of SWAPO leader Toivi Herlan Ya Toivi and of other Namibian and South African nationalist prisoners held by Pretoria such as African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela.

ANGOLA

JORGE: 'DOORS OPEN' FOR TALKS WITH RSA

AB281701 Luanda ANGOP in French 1121 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Lisbon, 28 Mar (ANGOP) -- Angolan Foreign Minister Paulo Jorge stated in Lisbon last Saturday that the "doors are open for a third meeting between the People's Republic of Angola and South Africa," but "the Pretoria authorities must affirm the level at which they intend to negotiate." Speaking at a press conference held within the framework of the international conference for solidarity with the frontline countries, the Angolan minister pointed out that "as a matter of fact, there was a second meeting, but as the two delegations were of different levels, it was not possible to achieve progress on the concrete aspects of that exchange of impressions between the Angolan and the South African delegations."

"If we were unable to achieve progress at that second meeting," the minister added, "it was because the South African delegations brought up an issue that we found was a further pretext." The minister explained that "the pretext was SWAPO's armed raids inside Namibia attributed to Angola in spite of the attacks being carried out inside Namibia near Windhoek."

"It would mean starting on a wrong basis to expect SWAPO to inform us beforehand or to ask permission before launching its attackes, or to seek the Angolan Government's permission before carrying out raids inside its own country," he added.

"The regime in Pretoria has also forgotten that a considerable part of the Angolan territory from which the SWAPO fighters used to bring food to those at the front inside Namibia is being occupied by its troops," the Angolan minister further observed.

In conclusion, Paulo Jorge said that it "is obvious" that the door is open for a third round of talks and that the Angolan side "will expect South African authorities to say at what level they want to carry on the negotiations."

Speech at Lisbon Conference

AB270638 Luanda ANGOP in French 2030 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] Lisbon, 26 Mar (ANGOP) -- The international conference of solidarity with the frontline states constitutes a concrete and tangible manifestation of what can be described as the moral conscience of the international community, Angolan Foreign Minister Paulo Jorge said during yesterday's opening session of the conference in Lisbon.

The head of Angolan diplomacy, who was preceeded by many speakers of international renown, spoke about various important points such as the why Angola has been a target of the murderous aggression of South Africa, the role of the international press on the truth about this issue, and finally the concrete benefits to be derived from such a conference.

The Angolan delegation leader's speech, which was anxiously awaited and followed with keen interest, also raised the need for the international community to adopt a more effective and firmer position on the grave and delicate problems facing southern Africa. "This conference constitutes both a protest and an alarm in a world dominated by narrow selfishness and indifference," the Angolan foreign minister said. The truth is that the Angolan people are paying highly for the independence of Namibia," he said, adding that "from 1975 to the present, the loss in human lives so that the Namibian people can also achieve their independence has risen to about 10,000 while destruction caused by the continued aggression of the Pretoria regime against Angola is estimated at $7.5 million. [figure as received]

What will be the reaction of the international community in the face of this situation? the Angolan minister asked. He added that in certain circles South Africa's aggression against Angola is considered a normal phenomenon. This situation is becoming more and more obvious, especially when South Africa's aggression against Angola and other neighboring countries like Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Lesotho has become almost an everyday affair, Paulo Jorge stressed.

In all this, the international community has been reacting passively and with total indifference, the Angolan minister continued. Some circles in the international community even think that the Namibian issue is Angola's affair; but this is not so. This issue concerns the whole international community because the Namibian territory has been placed under UN mandate. Therefore, every member country has a direct responsibility for the developments in that territory, the Angolan minister emphasized. Applauded by the audience, Paulo Jorge continued. "I was calling for justice when I told UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar that the Namibian issue is an issue for the United Nations and South Africa. That is why this conference in Lisbon is of great importance as far as the concrete steps of solidarity to be taken are concerned."

Paulo Jorge said: "The situation prevailing in southern Africa cannot be solved simply by beautiful political statements of solidarity, for "unfortunately it is not with these statements that the people can grapple with the destabilization attempts of South Africa, because we know that the struggle of our region is not only and exclusively against the Pretoria regime, but also against international imperialist and against the global strategy of the United States."

Indeed, the Angolan minister appealed to the "conscience" of the international community, adding that "it is curious to note that some Western papers, which are present here, should be so concerned about the presence of Cuban internationalist troops in Angola, a country which is not even theirs, but does not show the same concern about the presence of South African troops in the People's Republic of Angola."

What a strange concept of the role of information it is that they should be so very interested in publishing the so-called activities of bandit groups operating in Angola, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and Lesotho. He added: "Let's hope that this conference will enable some of these elements who are so attached to sensationalism to know and to learn about the realities of southern Africa, and will also be a further instrument of solidarity with the countries of southern Africa.

Paulo Jorge clearly stated that "the people of Angola will not relinquish their solidarity with Namibia, irrespective of the painful consequences it is experiencing and the sacrifice it is making for the independence of the people of Namibia and of South Africa.

'SPECIAL' UNITA COMMUNIQUE ON 11-12 MAR ACTIONS

MB281823 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Angola Angola 0430 GMT 25 Mar 83

[UNITA Radio]

[Text] Comrades and fellow countrymen:

We call your special attention to a special communique from the chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FALA] which will be read by the spokesman for the operations room of the Strategic Operational Command (COPE) [Comando Operacional Estrategico].

[Begin recording] National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, UNITA, Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola, FALA, Strategic Operational Command operations room;

1983, year of the anti-Cuban effort;

Special communique:

UNITA goes through phases which I describe as temporary. Victory is not acknowledged by the degree of compromise. Victory is acknowledged by the value that history attaches to it. One cannot win more or less. We either win, or we do not win. Victory is determined by two factors: strong principles and force, as stated by Comrade President General Dr Jonas Malheiro Savimbi, FALA's supreme commander.

To mark the 17th anniversary of the founding of UNITA, FALA militantly salutes its supreme commander, General Black (?Jaguar), to whom we reaffirm our loyalty.

What we practice is combat readiness, which is in accordance with the strategic guidelines of Comrade President Savimbi. Throughout the entire nation, the resistance and the war against Soviet-Cuban expansionism are total. Thus, among the various operations carried out in the theatres of war, we point to the following:

On 12 March 1983 our strategic forces, in a violent assault against a position occupied by two of the enemy's motorized infantry battalions of (Longa's) 1st (?Brigade) victoriously took (Peco) by 0720. This objective is situated 60 km north of (Longa Cavalo). Caught by surprise, the enemy then tried to regroup twice.

However, the superiority and efficiency of our units resulted in our total control of the situation. One hundred and seventy-four enemy corpses were found in the area. Our first search operations revealed that we captured the following: Seven members of the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] were captured alive. We also captured 4 B-10 cannons; 11 82-mm mortars; 7 60-mm mortars; 6 14.5 mm antiaircraft guns; 5 (Ipanu) vehicles, 3 radio transmitters, 6 field radios, 12 light machineguns, 117 automatic weapons, 22 pistols, 97 boxes of ammunition for AK weapons; 37 boxes of assorted munitions; 1,830 assorted shells; 8 boxes with special equipment for tactical reconnaissance; 840 complete uniforms; 1 ton of medical supplies; and 2 depots of [word indistinct] materiel. Thirteen other vehicles are being repaired by our mechanics, and 12,200 civilians were liberated.

We note that the enemy forces were part of the MPLA 1st Regular Brigade. We regret to announce the death of two fellow countrymen. They are Captain (Gino), the battalion's political commissar, and Captain (Kumbuiamako), the battalion's second in command. Eleven of our men were slightly wounded.

On 11 March our comrades moved toward the objective which was situated 16 km northeast of Ganda, along the Benguela railway [CFB]. The moment for the great mission arrived. The enemy position at Alto Catumbela was taken at 0500 on 12 March 1983. The results as follows:

The industrial scheme which includes the (cellulose) company, the national paper factory, and the hydroelectric system which distributes energy to the cities of Huambo, Cuba, Benguela, and Lobito, was completely destroyed. A CFB locomotive and the station were completely destroyed. Thirty-two vehicles belonging to the (?cellulose) company were burned. One Alouette helicopter, which attempted to fly over the operational area, was shot down.

By 1800 on 12 March 1983 our forces had collected 347 automatic weapons; 11 B-10 cannons; and 24 special machineguns, model 81. Thousands of civilians, who attended a spectacular gathering near the CFB Catumbela station yesterday at 1400, are now carrying tons of assorted weaponry, medicines, clothes, and food for us.

Sixty-four Czechoslovak technicians, 20 Portuguese experts, over 20 FAPLA elements, and some SWAPO members were captured. Along with the civilians, members of the people's defense organization who were captured are now carrying the captured supplies for us.

Our forces are now engaged in followup operations against the remaining enemy forces who were put to flight to Ganda and Quingene. Some 27 Cubans were counted among the hundreds of dead FAPLA soldiers who belonged to the enemy's 98th Brigade. We have the situation under control.

The fatherland is not negotiable. It is to be defended. (Kafundanga) is an example to follow.

Only united around Comrade President Savimbi will we win.

Free territory of Angola on 13 March 1983. Operations room of the Strategic Operational Command.

LESOTHO

POLICE REPORT TWO INSURGENTS SHOT DEAD

MB281230 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] The Lesotho paramilitary force has announced that two insurgents were shot dead at Hendrick's drift in Buthabuthe yesterday.

These insurgents were part of a group which had crossed into Lesotho from South Africa. A large quantity of arms and ammunition, including AK-47's, mortars, rockets, as well as South African Army sachets, was captured. The bodies of the two insurgents will be displayed for identification at the government mortuary in Maseru. Also displayed will be the body of one of the invaders killed at Ongeluk's Nek in Quthing last Saturday. Meanwhile, it is rumored from Matatiele that three bodies of white men have been found in South Africa near the area where the Lesotho paramilitary force repulsed invaders who had attacked Ongeluk's Nek last Saturday.

Sabotage Suspects Released

MB281241 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] The commissioner of police, Major General (R.F. Matela) of the Lesotho Mounted Police, has announced that seven of the earlier arrested South African police suspected of being linked with sabotage attempts in Maseru have been released without his knowledge, and the matter is being investigated. Meanwhile, (B. Theka Lekoala) was injured by a gunshot in Maseru during a search for saboteurs yesterday morning the 27th March. Mr (Theka Kekoala) is receiving treatment at the Queen Elizabeth II hospital in Maseru. During the search, a quantity of arms, ammunition, and explosives was found.

TIES WITH USSR LINKED TO PROTEST OVER ATTACKS

MB290936 Johannesburg THE STAR in English 28 Mar 83 p 1

[Excerpts] The Lesotho Government says it is interrogating several South African policemen allegedly involved in a wisespread wave of attacks and sabotage in the Kingdom over the weekend. A spokesman for the minister of law and order in South Africa today denied that any member of the SAP had been involved in activities in Lesotho or that any member had been detained. Lesotho has protested about the attacks to the U.S. State Department, the British Foreign Office, and the OAU and may call for an urgent debate in the United Nations Security Council.

In a development that may have serious future implications, a source in Maseru's Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirmed today that the Soviet Union had also been informed through its ambassador in Maputo. The spokesman said he understood that "expeditious" arrangements were to be made for the ambassador to come to Lesotho to present his credentials to King Moshoeshoe I. Though Russia and Lesotho agreed to establish relations about two years ago there was widespread opposition to the move within the Kingdom and no formal steps were taken.

MAURITIUS

PRIME MINISTER ANNOUNCES NEW GOVERNMENT

AB281347 Paris AFP in English 1339 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] Port Louis, March 28 (AFP) -- Mauritian Prime Minister Aneerood Jugnauth today formed a new coalition government following last week's mass resignation by 11 ministers. The new government comprises 10 Mauritian Militant Movement (MMM) ministers, the main party in the former ruling coalition which swept to power last June, five from the Mauritian Socialist Party, the former government's junior partner, and one from the small Rodrigan People's Organization, representing Rodrigues Island.

Mr Jugnauth himself becomes finance minister, replacing Paul Berenger, who founded the Mauritian Militant Movement (MMM), and Foreign Minister Jean-Claude de L'Estrac has been replaced by Anyl Gayan, an MMM member of Parliament.

The new Cabinet is expected to win the approval of a small majority of MP's at the next legislative session scheduled for next week.

The MMM's Central Committee yesterday voted almost unanimously to break with the PSM, but the MMM MP's are not expected to go along with the party line. Mr Jugnauth himself maintains that the Mauritian Constitution does not permit his MMM party to exclude the PSM from the government. The 11 ministers ostensibly resigned over the dismissal of the Mauritian Broadcasting Corporation Chief Gaetan Esso, but the move reflected a dispute between the two ruling parties.

In another development, parliamentary opposition leader Gaetan Duval has resigned his seat and is calling for a general election, saying that he does not want to be an "accomplice of the new regime in any way." Mr Duval, a former foreign minister and leader of the Mauritian Social Democratic Party (PMSD), was beaten in the elections but was allowed to sit in Parliament under the island's "corrective" system which restores an ethnic balance to the legislature.

The main ethnic groups are the Indo-Mauritians and the Creole and Franco-Mauritian communities. Another PMSD deputy and two Labor MP's were also allowed to sit in Parliament under this system.

The new ministers today had a meeting with Mr Jugnauth before being sworn in by the governor-general, Sir Dayendranath Burrenchobay. The new 16-member Mauritian Government, including the prime minister, is as follows:

Prime minister and finance:	Aneerood Jugnauth (MMM)
Information and cooperatives:	Harish Boodhoo (PSM)
Agriculture:	Kilshore Deerpalsingh (PSM)
Works:	Rohit Beedassy (PSM)
Minister for Rodgrigues:	Serge Clair (Rodrigan Party)
Indust[illegible] and trade, attorney-general:	Kader Bhayat (MMM)
Foreign affairs, tourism:	Anyl Gayan (MMM)
Youth and sports:	Sylvio Michel (MMM)
Social security and employment:	Diwakar Bundhun (MMM)
Education, arts and culture:	Armoogum Parsooramen (PSM)
Labour, industrial relations:	Satteanucd Peerthum (MMM)
Housing, land, environment:	Dwarkanath Gungah (MMM)
Planning and economic development:	Karl Offman (PSM)
Regional administration:	Lutchmeepardadsing Ramsahok (MMM)
Energy, communications:	Hahyendra Utchanan (MMM)
Health:	Jugdish Goburdhun (MMM)

SOUTH AFRICA

OFFICIAL COMPLAINT LODGED WITH LESOTHO

MB281920 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] South Africa has lodged a strong complaint with Lesotho after allegations that Lesotho was attacked from South African territory.

In an official message to the Lesotho Government, the minister of foreign affairs and information, Mr Pik Botha, said his department wanted to register its strongest exception to the contents of two Lesotho protest notes. Mr Botha said the South African Government was not connected with the incidents at Ongeluk's Nek and Hendrick's Drift. No attacks against Lesotho had been launched from South African territory.

A number of Lesotho nationals who fled to South Africa since the weekend were being held for questioning by the South African police. Mr Botha said the South African Government could not be held responsible for the actions of dissident elements within Lesotho. He said the Government of Lesotho should realize that it could not continue trying to perpetuate a patently transparent deception without inviting derision.

Le Grange Denies Involvement

MB281748 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] The minister of law and order, Mr Le Grange, has denied that any member of the South African police [SAP] was involved in an alleged attack on Lesotho or that any member of the South African police is being detained in Lesotho.

The minister says in a statement released in Cape Town that it is a well-known fact that Lesotho is constantly subjected to internal strife in which firearms and explosives are freely used, and it is absurd to blame the South African police for this state of affairs. Mr Le Grange says the SAP recently introduced stricter control measures. A number of Lesotho citizens who fled to South Africa since the weekend are being detained for questioning.

In the meantime, police headquarters in Maseru has announced that two insurgents were shot dead at Hendricks Drift in the Butha Buthe District on the Lesotho-South African border last night. The insurgents were killed after they had opened fire on the Lesotho police station on the border. The announcement said insurgents fled into South Africa.

FOREIGN MINISTER ON ARRIVAL OF MABANDLA

MB270646 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Text] The minister for foreign affairs and information, Mr Pik Botha, says there is no reason to believe that relations between South Africa and Swaziland will be harmed by the arrival in South Africa of the former Swazi prime minister, Prince Mabandla Dlamini. Mr Botha was speaking in Johannesburg after the prince, who was dismissed by the queen regent earlier this week, arrived in South Africa.

He said there was no reason to think that the prince's arrival would in any way affect ties between Pretoria and Mbabane, and for its part South Africa would certainly not do anything to harm its relations with its neighbor. Earlier reports said Prince Mabandla Dlamini had also brought his family to South Africa.

More on Mabandla

MB271018 Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES in English 27 Mar 83 p 1

[By Norman Chandler and Ivor Wilkins]

[Excerpt] Swaziland's deposed prime minister, Prince Mabandla Dlamini, has fled the country and is now in South Africa. He has not yet asked for political asylum.

The arrival of Prince Mabandla was confirmed in Cape Town yesterday by the foreign minister, Mr Pik Botha, who said he had spoken to the former premier.

It is not known when or where Prince Mabandla entered South Africa. Prince Mabandla, accompanied by his family, crossed into South Africa using normal travel documents. "They had come in the customary way with valid travel documents," Mr Botha said. Since his arrival, I have had talks with him and it is clear to me that he does not want to make trouble for the Swazi Government," Mr Botha said. "He is tired and has expressed the wish to be left alone so that he can decide about his future in peace and quiet."

Mr Botha said that since the arrival of Prince Mabandla, he has been in contact with the Swazi minister of foreign affairs, Mr Richard V. Dlamini. He had informed the Swaziland Government that Prince Mabandla was visiting South Africa. It is reliably understood that Prince Mabandla's choice of South Africa as a refuge had come as something of a surprise. It is not clear whether he is intending to apply for asylum in the country.

BUTHELEZI SAYS ANC FORFEITS BLACK SUPPORT

MB280740 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] The chief minister of KwaZulu, Chief Buthelezi, says the ANC will now have to abandon any hope that blacks in South Africa will help it in future, as it is apparently intent on initiating a conflict between them. He was commenting on the discovery by the South African police of a second cache of Soviet-made arms and ammunition near the KwaZulu capital of Ulundi. Referring to the discovery last Wednesday of the first arms cache, the Central Committee of Chief Buthelezi's Inkatha Movement says the ANC, rather than what it terms the white racist regime, has become the oppressor. It says in a statement: There is growing evidence of the intention of the external mission of the ANC to eliminate Inkatha and its leader by violent means.

ENVOY: ABC FILM TEAM VISITED ON 'FALSE PRETEXT'

MB280910 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] A spokesman for the South Africa Embassy in Washington says it appears as if a television team of the American ABC television network visited South Africa last year on a false pretext to film an anti-South African documentary. The program, with the title of "Adapt or Die," is to be broadcast nationwide on American teleivision on Friday night.

Our Washington representative, invited to a special preview of the film, says it gives a one-sided and distorted impression of labor relations and the black trade union movement in South Africa by presenting only the views of radical trade union leaders. There is no mention, he says, of the significant changes which have been made since 1979 in South Africa's labor policy and legislation.

The embassy spokesman in Washington says that in its visa application ABC television stated that the decumentary would concentrate on the strategic and economic importance of South Africa to the United States, on changes made by the Reagan administration to the American policy on South Africa, on the part played by American companies in improving the employment conditions and economic position of their black workers in South Africa, and on the destabilization of southern Africa by the Soviet Union and its satellite states. The spokesman says that the documentary in its final form, however, deals with none of these topics.

SWAZILAND

BHEKIMPI SWORN IN AS NEW PRIME MINISTER

MB251424 Mbabane Domestic Television Service in English 1130 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Excerpts] The new prime minister of Swaziland, Prince Bhekimpi Dlamini, was this morning sworn in to his new position as prime minister by the attorney general, Mr P. Makhandza, at Parliament House.

[Begin recording] [Makhandza] This oath is administered according to the establishment of the Parliament of Swaziland order of 1978. There are two oaths to be administered. The first one is the oath of affirmation of allegiance, and the second one will be the oath of the due execution of duty.

[Bhekimpi] I, Bhekimpi Alphius Dlamini, do swear that I will be faithful and pay true allegiance to the Ndlovukati and regent, Her Majesty Dzeliwe, to the future king of the Kingdom of Swaziland, and to their heirs and successors according to the law, so help me God.

I, Bhekimpi Alphius Dlamini, do swear that I will well and truly serve the Ndlovukati and regent, Her Majesty Dzeliwe, the future king of the Kingdom of Swaziland, and their heirs and successors, in the office of prime minister, so help me God. [end recording]

Addresses Parliamentarians

MB251701 Mbabane Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Text] The new prime minister of Swaziland, Prince Bhekimpi, was sworn in at Parliament house today by the attorney general, Mr Patrick Makhandza, in the presence of members of Parliament and the authorized person, Prince Sozisa. In his address to members of Parliament after the swearing-in ceremony, the prime minister said after he had served the king and this country as a politician since 1969, he had hoped that it is now time for him to rest, but it was not so. He said: As a loyal and dedicated servant of the monarchy and Swazi nation, I pledge, as prime minister, to serve the Ndlovurazi and queen regent, her successors and heirs, the people of this nation, with all my might:" He swore: I, Bhekimpi, affirm to follow in the footsteps of our late King Sobhuza II, the greatest prophet of this nation after King Somhlolo."

Prince Bhekimpi said King Somhlolo, after his vision, commanded his Swazi nation to build a society based on the Bible rather than material gain. He said King Shobhuza II taught Swazis to be proud of their customs and traditions and commanded them to take their best in the culture and merge it with the best in other cultures. The prime minister further stated that, in his valedictory speech to his people and the world, the late king admonished Swazis and the world not to have enemies, who he said taught us to open dialogue with our enemies to create friendship. [sentence as heard]

The prime minister said Swaziland shall speak to all. He said he was aware that there are a number of problem areas his government had to address itself to, and he assured members that he will speak to the nation on those issues in the near future. The prime minister said that with God's guidance, nothing will be impossible for this nation to achieve, and, therefore, appealed for total cooperation from members of Parliament.

FOREIGN MINISTER ON MABANDLA'S ARRIVAL IN RSA

MB280900 Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 28 Mar 83 pp 1, 16

[By TIMES reporter]

[Text] Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr R.V. Dlamini said yesterday that a report informing him of Prince Mabandla's arrival in South Africa had taken him by surprise. He said in an interview that government knew nothing about Prince Mabandla's plans to go to South Africa until they were informed by the South Africans. Mr Dlamini was non-comittal on specific questions such as reports that Prince Mabandla had left the country because he had been warned he would be charged with high treason. He did not confirm reports that the South African foreign minister, Mr Pik Botha, had contacted him about Prince Mabandla being in South Africa.

Commissioner of Police Mr Titus Msibi told the THE TIMES: "We were informed by the border gate officials that he had passed through with his family. There were no details about it, except that. So I cannot comment at the moment until we establish from Prince Mabandla himself what he intends to do, or if he is merely on a visit. We shall be able to supply you with more information as soon as we have met with the authorities and discussed the matter."

Meanwhile, SAPA has reported that Prince Mabandla arrived in South Africa at the week-end "amid speculation in Swaziland he was fleeing for his life with his family." The Johannesburg-based news agency said: "Sources in Swaziland told SAPA the prince was due to face charges of high treason following the release of two members of the Liqoqo who were earlier detained before facing charges of sedition." The SAPA report said this could not be confirmed by Swazi Government officials.

SAPA quoted the South African foreign minister, Mr Pik Botha, as having said: "The South African Government would not act in any manner which will harm or damage our relations in Swaziland. I do not think he has come here to cause any problems to the Swaziland Government. He made it clear to me that it is because he does not want to cause any problems that he came here."

"Since the late king's death it has not been easy for Swaziland and I have a lot of sympathy for the various factions. We must give them time to calm down and get on with the job of administering their country," Mr Botha said.

The report on Prince Mabandla going to South Africa was released on Saturday night. SAPA quoted the SABC-TV as having reported that Prince Mabandla had arrived in South Africa with his family unexpectedly. Mr Botha was quoted as having confirmed the story and saying he had known the former prime minister "for years" and that he also knew Prince Bhekimpi, the new prime minister. SAPA claimed that Mr Botha had said he had been in touch with the minister of foreign affairs, Mr R.V. Dlamini, before Prince Mabandla arrived in South Africa.

"Two weeks ago I arranged a meeting which was scheduled for last Friday, but I did not know at the time of the events that took place in Swaziland last week," Mr Botha was quoted as saying. Mr Botha said he hoped the presence of Prince Mabandla in South Africa was not an embarrassment to Swaziland. "I have said we would refrain from any action which would damage our relations with Swaziland," Mr Botha said. "I phoned my colleague there (Mr Dlamini). I told him about the visit and I think it is better this way."

Asked what would happen if the Swaziland Government asked for the return of Prince Mabandla, Mr Botha replied: "I hope they don't. It is a dilemma to choose between the people out of the government and those that have replaced them."

The SUNDAY TIMES of Johannesburg reported yesterday that "Swaziland's deposed prime minister, Prince Mabandla Dlamini, has fled the country and is now in South Africa. He has not yet asked for political asylum." The paper said it was not known when or where Prince Mabandla entered South Africa.

ZAMBIA

PRESIDENT KAUNDA VISITS CYPRUS, UNITED KINGDOM

For Cyprus and United Kingdom source coverage of the visit by President Kaunda, see the Cyprus and United Kingdom sections of the 22 March Western Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

ZIMBABWE

MUGABE ISSUES 'ULTIMATUM' TO ZAPU ON DISSIDENTS

MB270801 Harare Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Mugabe, has issued an ultimatum to ZAPU to end the dissident menace now or face the wrath of the government. Comrade Mugabe told more than 30,000 people at Rufaro stadium yesterday that the government will disarm ZAPU as a party if its leaders do not disarm their dissidents.

He said the government has evidence that ZAPU leaders at various levels are recruiting, maintaining, and providing the infrastructure to enable dissidents to carry out their activities. The prime minister warned ZAPU leaders that the government can no longer accept their position of ostensibly supporting it while on the other hand supporting and abetting dissidents.

He denied foreign press reports that the 5th Brigade had been sent to Matabeleland to destroy the Matabele people. Instead, he said, the 5th Brigade is in that part of the country to protect the people. Comrade Mugabe promised that incidents of disobedience or the killing of innocent civilians, if they occured, would be investigated and those responsible punished. He also told the people that there is a possibility of the minumum wage being raised within the next 2 months. The prime minister said contingency plans have been drawn up to (?assist) rural people to feed themselves by forming cooperatives.

RADIO TRUTH SUGGESTS FORMER LEADER ASSASSINATED

MB270735 (Clandestine) Radio Truth in Ndebele to Zimbabwe 1700 GMT 25 Mar 83

[Station commentary: "The Truth About Zimbabwe"]

[Text] In 1980 Joshua Nkomo and Robert Mugabe were leaders united in the patriotic front. ZANU and ZAPU were supposed to be one fighting unit. At the Lancaster house conference they informed us that they were going to enter the coming elections as one party. We all agreed that they were truly united. However, when the time for elections came, Mugabe declared that he was going to go it alone in the elections without ZAPU. This dealt a very painful blow to all of us, since we wanted the two parties to be united. They then contested the elections as two separate parties, the Popular Front and ZANU-PF.

Among the ZANU-PF leadership there was an opinion that any dissenting point of view in the leadership must be crushed, as in the case of Josiah (Magama) Tongogara, the commander of the ZANLA forces. Robert Gabriel Mugabe, president of the ZANU-PF, was well aware of the powerful influence Tongogara commanded within the ZANLA forces. Mugabe feared this. He knew that with this kind of esteem Tongogara would be followed in whatever he suggested. In some parts of Rhodesia during the bush war the comrades were using the slogan "Forward with Tongogara! Down with Mugabe." Tongogara was a very powerful, dedicated man. He wanted ZANU and ZAPU to remain united always and to enter the elections as a single party, the Partiotic Front. Mugabe was well aware that Tongogara was destined to assume the mantle of leadership and become president of the party.

We all know that at this time and in this situation Togogara died in a car accident in Mozambique. We all know that the only thing that would have halted Tongogoara's rise to power was death, such as an accident in a faulty car, which was not faulty. That is the truth. Is it not true that the leader who was going to bring in a respected united front in Zimbabwe was assassinated? Who reaped benefits of his death? Whoever did it is going to be sentenced. The people of this country are now worried about this evil jealousy. Forward with truth!

POLICE CONFISCATE UK JOURNALIST'S PASSPORTS

NC261907 Paris AFP in English 1902 GMT 26 Mar 83

[Text] Harare, March 26 (AFP) -- Zimbabwean police today seized the passports and notes of British journalist David Blundy from his hotel room here. Mr Blundy, 38, a correspondent for the SUNDAY TIMES newspaper, said his room at the Meikles Hotel was searched at about 12:30 p.m. today by plain clothes policemen who took his notes, camera, tape recorder and passports. (Mr Blundy has two British passports because he works in the Middle East and needs one free of Israeli stamps.)

Mr Blundy said during his stay he had also visited Bulawayo, the Matabeleland capital, but that he had done very little reporting because he had only been in Zimbabwe six days and had caught chicken pox.

(Meanwhile, in London, SUNDAY TIMES foreign editor Peter Wilsher confirmed that Mr Blundy had been told not to leave the country, and that police had searched his room "acting on suspicion he might have committed an offence under the criminal procedure and evidence act".

(Mr Silsher said that Mr Blundy's first article from Zimbabwe was to be published tomorrow).

Five days ago, the Zimbabwe correspondent for the British newspaper THE GUARDIAN, Nick Worrall, was told to leave the country by the end of the month for articles by a visiting GUARDIAN staffer, Nick Davies. The government has repeatedly complained about foreign press accounts concerning Army brutality in southeastern Zimbabwe during the drive against dissident guerrillas.